



USK



PAST AND PRESENT

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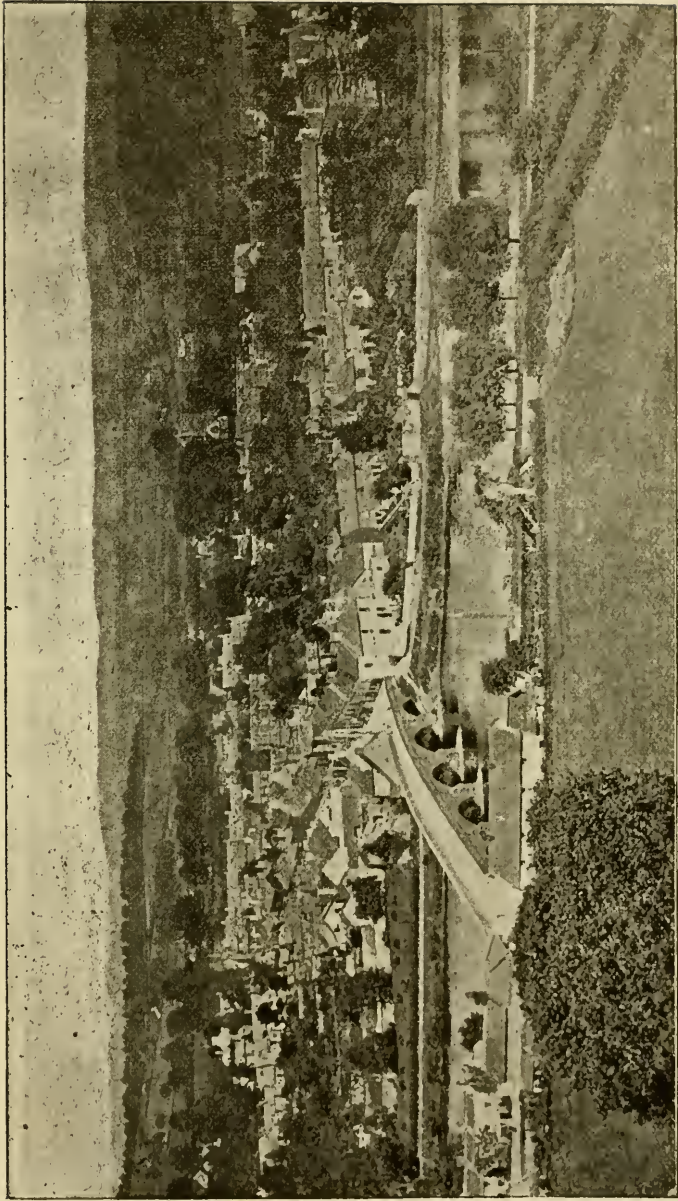
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August 9. 1896



Town of U.S.W. taken from the top of Craig = yn = Alt.

U S K.

PAST AND PRESENT,

ANTIQUITIES. CASTLE, CHURCH.

CUSTOMS AND CLAIMS.

PRIORY. CHARTERS. CHARITIES.

SCRAPS AND FACTS.

BY

J. H. CLARK.

U S K :

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USK: PAST AND PRESENT.

1299855

USK gives its name to a Hundred which is divided into upper and lower divisions, and is in the Poor Law Union of Pontypool. It is 11 miles distant from Abergavenny, 14 from Chepstow, 13 from Monmouth, 8 from Caerleon, 7 from Pontypool, 11 from Newport, and 5 from Raglan. It is situated nearly in the centre of Monmouthshire, on the banks of the river from which it derives its name, and which here receives the tributary streams of the Berddin and Olway.

The situation of the town is uncommonly beautiful, and the surrounding scenery is beheld with extreme pleasure by those accustomed to the tame and uninteresting views of low and long levels. It is charmingly diversified by woods, pastures, and interesting objects; and the display of hill and dale, park-like woods and grounds, intersected by clear and meandering streams, cannot fail to create sensations of delight and admiration.

From the bridge, on looking down the river, a lovely prospect presents itself; along the verdant banks of the stream, studded with alders and sycamores, rises the precipitous and beautifully tinged wood of Graig-y-nallt on the right, and a series of neatly-mown lawns planted with trees and shrubs, at the back of some of the residences, form

the boundary of the river on the left, with the picturesque little Church of Llanbadoc beyond; from thence the Usk continues to wind its course towards the base of the hill of Penycaemawr, which is backed by the extensive forest of Wentwood. Up the river, wooded knolls are interspersed with verdant pastures, and the eye glances along the bosom of the clear stream, which, under the sloping grove of Beech Hill, assumes the aspect of a placid lake, on whose face is reflected the graceful and waving branches of the willow and alder, and a short distance higher up the stream the water rushes with impetuosity on its rocky bed. The beautiful vale of the Usk from thence extends to the neighbourhood of Abergavenny, and then, forming as it were a background to the landscape, is a mass of bold, steep, ridgy hills, broken up and presenting deep ravines and valleys of great beauty, among which the Bloreng, the Skirrid, the Rholben, the Derry, and the Sugar Loaf form conspicuous objects. Within a short distance of the bridge on the right, embosomed among trees, on the spur of a hill and overlooking the town, stand the venerable ivy-mantled walls of the Castle, and on the sloping ground beneath are garden terraces.

The town stands on a considerable tract of ground, the principal streets form a square, the area of which, six or seven acres, is composed of gardens and orchards. The buildings are very irregular and many of them much dilapidated. Most of the streets are broad, with paved footways, and the town is well drained by means of sanitary pipes.

With regard to the appearance of the town itself, the last half century has worked much improvement. Sixty years ago the only pavement in the town was a piece here and there in Bridge Street, the principal thoroughfare, and a patch of some twenty yards' extent adjoining the School in Church Street, all the other footpaths being pitched with pebbles from the river, or bare earth; surface gutters crossed the streets in every direction, and obstructions to foot passengers in the shape of palisades, railings, and iron barriers for protecting windows. By the help of the Borough funds and Highway and Local Board rates, most of the footpaths are now paved or asphalted, and many of the obstructions removed.

In 1842, Mr. James Williams, having purchased the site of the old House of Correction, in Bridge Street, commenced building extensive premises, in which he carried on a large trade. This induced other tradesmen to build and improve their residences. Old cooperage premises, with a shed extending over the footpath, were converted into a neat and commodious grocery and drapery establishment. Some old thatched stabling opening into the street on the footpath was converted into shops with plate-glass fronts. Other persons then built and improved their business premises in the town, so that at the present time the shops in Usk bear a favourable comparison with most small towns.

There are a number of very pleasant walks surrounding the town; the one on the Abergavenny road as far as the Chain Bridge, a distance of about three miles; the uphill walk on the Monmouth road as far as Gwehelog School, about two miles; and

the shorter walk by the river side to Llanbadoc are the roads most frequented.

In the town and in some of the neighbouring woods and fields antiquities may be found. In a field called Caeputta, to the south of the town, and on the spot where the County Gaol now stands, in the year 1796, a paved road was discovered some feet below the surface; it was nine feet broad, formed of hewn stones placed edgeways, supposed to have been one of the streets of the ancient town; and in digging the foundations for the Gaol in the year 1841, several interesting relics of Roman origin were turned up. In the Graig-y-garcoed a steep rocky wood about a mile and a half from the town, on the side of the river, the remains of a Roman encampment is visible, although overgrown with trees and bushes; the entrenchments in some places are thirty feet deep, and several tumuli are within the area from fifteen to twenty feet in height. Two other camps are on the opposite side of the river, east of the road leading from Usk to Clytha; that of Campwood, about two miles from Usk, on the common of Gwehelog is of an oval shape, inclosed by a single fosse and vallum 700 yards in circumference, completely overgrown with trees and bushes; the other formed upon the summit of a commanding eminence, near Clytha Castle, is known by the name of Coed-y-Bunydd; it is 480 yards in circumference; the west and north sides are precipitous, bounded by one entrenchment; the other sides are fortified by triple ditches and ramparts; the entrance is covered by a tumulus, and traces of some foundations of towers at each end may yet be found. The remains of a small camp are visible in the grounds

of Twyn Bell, overlooking Llanbadoc Church; a camp of much larger dimensions is found on Ty Mawr Farm, Llansoy, on the top of the wood overlooking Llandenny; and another about three miles distant therefrom on the Gaervawr. In a field by the roadside on Gwrellwydd farm, in the parish of Newchurch, about a mile distant from the Gaervawr is a cromlech, the upper or incumbent stone of which is twelve feet long, three feet and a half broad, and the supports are five feet high.

The trade of the town is inconsiderable, the only manufactory of late years being the Chemical Works, which are now out of work. In former years it had a manufactory of Japan ware, established by Mr. Edward Allgood, of Pontypool. The manufacture at Usk was, after Edward Allgood's death, carried on by Mr. Hughes, spoken of as "Mr. Hughes, of the Elman." For him, Morgan Davies, alluded to by Archdeacon Coxe, was the chief designer and ornamental painter. The John Hughes mentioned as having been apprenticed to William Allgood, came to Usk and also took part in the designing and painting, and used to go backwards and forwards to Pontypool to assist Mrs. Allgood in the management of her business. Mr. Hughes, of the Elman, did not himself take an active part in the manufacture. The colours were mixed by his wife, apparently an indication that *she* belonged to the Allgood family. An aged lady, Miss Ann Hughes, who claimed to be first cousin to old William Allgood, and lived in Bridge Street, Pontypool, disclaimed Mr. Hughes as being in any way related, though he had been called Edward Allgood's nephew. The Stockhams, who had come from Pontypool, played

an important part at Usk. Edward Stockham, who died January 5th, 1865, acted as limner, together with John Hughes, Samuel Lucas, Elisha Reed, — Hawkins, and Jonathan Lewis; while John Stockham (brother to Edward) attended to the ovens, and Richard Stockham, another brother, acted as clerk and bookkeeper. After the death of Mr. Hughes, of the Elman, the manufactory was carried on by Mr. Pyrke on the same premises, next door to the George, in Market Street—the George being kept by the painter Hawkins. Mr. Pyrke had two sons in business as ironmongers in London, and they used to send down urns, trays, etc., ready made, to be japanned at Usk and then returned to them for sale. Mr. Pyrke and Mr. Hughes are both remembered as “gentlemen”—men moving in a superior sphere in society and exercising a large-hearted benevolence towards their humbler brethren. Mr. Pyrke died at Usk, having conducted the business but a few years, and that in a manner in which he endeavoured to prevent the disclosure of the secrets of the trade, as he was very careful whom he admitted to the manufactory. The excellence of the work turned out at Usk in his days and those of his predecessor admits of no question, however much the assertion may clash with the popular notion in Pontypool. The late Duke of Wellington, the late Duke of Beaufort, and Louis XVIII., when King of France, were supplied with their Japan goods direct from Usk. After Mr. Pyrke, the manufactory passed, about 50 years ago, into the hands of the late Mr. Evan Jones, who removed it to the back of his shop, the third house in Bridge Street, on the right from the bridge. Mr. Evan Jones, who

was also yeoman, and brick, tile, and pipe manufacturer, filled the office of Portreeve of Usk, in 1850, 1851, and 1852. With him the Japan trade dwindled and dwindled, in the face of the counter attraction of Birmingham Japan and papier maché goods, and it ceased altogether at his death, which took place on the 13th March, 1860, when he was 70 years of age. The greater part of the stock of Japan goods which he left was dispersed by sale by auction, in 1862. All who were engaged in the manufacture, at Pontypool and at Usk, are now dead. The last was John Stockham. The Usk people believe that the secrets of the trade died with this man, as the Pontypool people declare that they perished with Mrs. Mary Jones, daughter of William Allgood. One of Mr. Evan Jones's nieces (the late Mrs. H. J. Parkhurst) afterwards resided at Pontymoel, and she possessed a miniature of "Old Edward Allgood." The following verses were conspicuously placed in Edward Allgood's manufactory:—

"Pray look at this as you pass by;
Working the ovens is very dry;
Many there be that do come here
That never think of a drop of Beer."

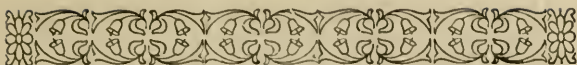
The above lines were painted on a tin plate fixed to the stove-room door, where the finishing and polishing was done in a temperature of from 70 to 80 degrees. Here old John Stockham worked up to the last fifteen years of his life, and reached the long age of 91. He died February 4th, 1866.

There was also a weaving manufactory, several grist mills in and near the town, and five malthouses, which were in full work; but the alterations in the law and the passing of the Free Trade measures

rendered the manufacture of malt unremunerative, and the dilapidated buildings are at present only used as storehouses.

In an old work published in 1769, this town is thus noticed :—"Usk, or Kaerwysk, is seated at the confluence of the Byrden and Usk, five miles to the north-east of Pontypool, eleven miles south-west of Monmouth, and one hundred and thirty west by north of London. This was also an ancient Roman city, called by Antoninus Burrium. There are still to be seen here the ruins of a large, strong castle, built for the security of the town, and pleasantly seated on the bank of the river; this castle, of which we have here given a view, at present belongs to the Lord Viscount Windsor. The town contains little else worthy of notice. It has a market on Mondays, and two fairs, held on the Monday after Trinity, and on the 18th of October, for horses, lean cattle, and pedlary."





The Ancient Town—Roman Remains.

WHEN the Romans invaded Britain, Monmouthshire was inhabited by the SILURES, a race of determined valour. They were led by Caractacus, a revered prince, who was, after many engagements, at length taken prisoner through the treachery of the Queen of the Brigantes, and sent prisoner to Rome. Though they had lost their leader, the Britons rallied and so harassed the Roman General, Ostorius Scapula, that he died of vexation and fatigue. The SILURES for a time recovered their independence, which they maintained until the reign of Vespasian, when Julius Frontinus obliged them to submit. The Romans, however, found great difficulty in retaining their conquest, and were obliged to form and garrison a long line of military posts, of which the stations of VENTA SILURUM (now Caerwent), ISCA SILURUM (now Caerleon and then the metropolis of the Silures); BURRIUM (Usk), GOBANIUM (Abergavenny), and BLESTIUM (Monmouth), were the principal. Roman Roads from Abergavenny and Monmouth were supposed to have joined at Usk, and extended from thence to Caerleon, the metropolis, by the lower road from Usk.

Horsley says: "The situation and shape of the town, lying in squares, together with some coins found there, favour its having been a Roman station, though at present there are no remains of it."

Coxe in his "MONMOUTHSHIRE," published 84 years ago, writes; "In digging wells and making foundations for buildings, three ranges of pavement have been discovered, and in the adjacent fields pitched roads traced, which are supposed to have been streets of the town. In a field called CAE PUTA to the south of the town, about five years ago (1795) a paved road was discovered under ground; it was nine feet broad and formed of hewn stones set edgewise, and a lane called BOOK LANE was pointed out to me as having been a street of the (ancient) town;"

and *Britton* and *Brayley* considered that the road found in *CAE PUTA* was probably part of the old road which extended from *BURRIUM* (*Usk*) to *VENTA SILURUM* (*Caerwent*), and added that "many ancient houses are in ruins, and of some only the foundations remain," they also infer, "that the Castle (or rather its outer bailey) had been the Roman *CASTRUM* and, from some of its architectural features, it was of Roman or Roman-British origin."

In the year 1842, *CAE PUTA*, was purchased by the Justices of Monmouthshire and the present gaol was built in or about its centre. During the excavations many remains were discovered which were taken away by parties residing in the town, and, unfortunately, no record of them has been preserved, but some of the old inhabitants state that a road running almost north and south was come upon some feet beneath the surface with the foundations of numerous buildings. A great number of coins, pottery, fibulae, &c., were also found, but were dispersed and lost, a few articles only having been preserved by Mr. *Iltyd Nicholl's* family and deposited in the Museum at *Caerleon*. Mr. *Lee*, of *Caerleon* describes also several very beautiful colored glass beads found in the garden of Mr. *Iltyd Nicholl*, near the river, now occupied by Mr. *H. Stafford Gustard*.

The field called *CAE PUTA* is bounded on its southern side by a watercourse, and the lane which *Coxe* calls "*Book Lane*" is in the old deeds called "*Puck Lane*" and pronounced as though spelt "*Pook*," and the lane, until the *New Court House* was built in 1876, divided *CAE PUTA* and the field called the *PRIORY ORCHARD* and formed its northern boundary.

Subsequently when a new wing was added to the gaol a Roman paved street was also come upon.

In the year 1876-7, when the new *Court House* adjoining the gaol was built, in order to obtain sufficient space it was necessary to take in a portion of the "*PUCK LANE*" and also a part of the "*PRIORY ORCHARD*," and the course of the *Puck Lane* in con-

sequence had to be diverted further northwards.

During the excavations for the southern walls of the building and in digging a water tank the workmen came upon a regular pitched road running north and south with another crossing it. These roads were laid bare at the point of their intersection, and had raised footpaths at the sides, the width of the central roadway was nine feet, and it was pitched with blocks of limestone descending about fifteen inches into the ground, each stone appeared to have been hammer-dressed, and at the surface was five inches by two inches. The TROTTOIRS or footpaths were three feet six inches in width with kerbstones, and were paved with small rough stone cubes, and in levelling the ground in front of the Court House considerable portions of walls were found. Amongst the numerous remains discovered were several querns or hand mills and a quantity of bones of animals; and a shilling of James I. was likewise discovered near the surface. A fragment of an inscribed Roman tombstone, identified as commemorating the child of a soldier of the Second Legion, which measured thirteen inches by ten, was also discovered on this occasion. Mr. A. D. Berrington, of Pantygoitre, who was absent from home at the time the Court House was erected, upon hearing of the discoveries on his return, obtained the consent of the Visiting Justices and set men to work in the garden in the rear of the Court House, and at the depth of about ten feet in a layer of sand which had been cut through, various Roman remains were found. The layer of pottery which was upon the top of the sand included some fine specimens of Samian ware, one embossed with an eagle and leaf pattern, another with a dancing goat and birds, others had patterns composed entirely of leaves, and various pieces of red pottery and portions of black ware; some fragments of tile were also found and one portion of a curved tile bore the inscription LEG. II. In other parts of the town from eight to ten feet below the present surface portions of buildings have been discovered, and during the excavation

in laying sewage pipes by the Local Board in 1874, at a point nearly opposite the commencement of the garden belonging to the Rev. Arthur Williams, the workmen cut down in front of a worked stone arched entrance to a building.



The Castle and its Possessors.

Few castles in the kingdom have been subject to more frequent assaults than that of Usk, and its present ruinous state is attributed to the merciless attack of Owen Glendower at the Battle of Usk in 1405, when he sacked the town, but met with a signal defeat and the loss of 1500 of his men, besides having his son taken prisoner by the royal forces under the Prince of Wales, afterwards Henry V., who was born at Monmouth.

The ruins of this fortress are of circular formation on an abrupt eminence overlooking the town. The approach to its walls is through a doorway between turreted pillars from an open space called the TWYN.

Interrupted flights of steps take the visitor to the entrance door of the area or court 240 feet by 162, the boundary of which is formed by straight walls with square and round towers at intervals.

The principal tower is on the west side of the court, its summit may be reached by a winding stone staircase, and from this eminence an extensive panoramic view of the surrounding sylvan and cultivated country, backed by mountain ranges extending from Twyn Barlwm mountain below Newport on the left, to the Bloreng, Sugar Loaf, Brecon Beacons, Holy Mountain, and the Graig Hill to the right, whilst the town lies immediately beneath the hill on which the castle stands, pleasingly intersected with gardens and orchards, and bounded by the meandering Usk. An agreeable and shady walk surrounds a great portion of the ruins and a rustic footpath leads to the railway station.

The name of the founder of this fortress has not been ascertained, and there does not appear to have been any castle here at the time of the Conquest, as no mention is made of one in Domesday, but from the style of its architecture it is conjectured to have been built by one of the Lords Marchers about that period, and there is a document which, from the description, would lead us to infer that one did exist here soon after William obtained possession of these realms. Twrstein Fitz Rolfe, who was standard bearer to the Conqueror at the battle of Hastings, is described as holding certain lands between the Usk and the Wye and certain lands beyond the Usk which included Trelech as one of its members. He was Lord of Usk, and having died without issue, Usk appears to have been granted to Richard de Clare, who also came over with the Conqueror and to whom he was very nearly related. He died in 1114 and was succeeded by the two Gilberts de Clare, and Richard de Clare, *alias* Strongbow, the conqueror of Ireland.

Richard Strongbow held the castle for some time when it was taken by Owen ap Jorworth of Caerleon. Isabella, the heiress of the last Richard, married William de la Grace the first Earl of Pembroke, Earl of Chepstow, and Lord Mareschal of England (William Marshall, so surnamed from his office), by whom she had 5 sons and 5 daughters. He died in 1219, and was succeeded by his five sons, viz., William, Richard, Gilbert, Walter, and Anselm, who died without issue, upon which the property became divided amongst the descendants, and Usk was awarded to Richard de Clare, the son of Isabella the third sister, who married Richard Earl of Gloucester.

Upon Richard de Clare's death in 1262, his son Gilbert, surnamed "The Red," being under age, was a ward of the Crown, and on attaining his majority he went to law with his mother, who claimed Usk as a part of her dower. The castle was taken by Simon de Montford in 1265, but three days afterwards he was driven out by Gilbert and Prince

Edward, he went to Newport where he demolished the bridge and afterwards escaped into Wales.

Earl Gilbert died in Monmouth Castle, December 25, 1295, leaving a son Gilbert, four years old, and three daughters. His widow then held the castle of Usk as her dower. Gilbert came of age May 11, 1313, but was killed at the battle of Bannockburn on the 24th June in the following year, and, his only son having died in infancy, his property was divided between the three sisters. Upon the division, Usk was awarded to the youngest, Elizabeth, who first married John de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, secondly, Theobald de Verdun, and thirdly, Roger de Amory. Notwithstanding her subsequent marriages she always styled herself Elizabeth de Burgh, the Lady of Clare. She was compelled to exchange Usk and Caerleon with Hugh l'Despenser, the younger, for manors in Glamorganshire, but not without a very solemn protest on the part of the Lady Elizabeth. Her third husband, Roger de Amory, was engaged with the other barons in ravaging the estates of the De Spensers, and being taken prisoner was sentenced to be hung, but the king pardoned him on account of his former services, and because he had married his niece.

The castle was seized by the king in 1322, and given into the custody of John Walwyn, and soon afterwards to Gilbert Glynkerney, who was ordered to levy 300 men for the king's service, and to obey the orders of Hugh de Speuser. On the accession of Edward III, he restored the estates to the Lady Elizabeth, who survived her three husbands and died in 1360. Her only son, William de Burgh, having died before her, Elizabeth de Burgh, her granddaughter, became her heir, who at an early age was married to Lionel Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III. Philippa, their daughter and heiress, married Edmund de Mortimer Earl of March, who died in 1382, leaving his son Roger under age, the rightful heir to the throne of England. Roger Mortimer, 4th Earl of March, was born here April 11th, 1374, and baptised the following Sunday, by Courtney, Bishop of Here-

ford; he had for sponsors the Abbot of Llandaff, the Abbot of Gloucester, and the Prioress of Usk, and was declared by the parliament in 1381 heir apparent to the Crown. On the 26th July, 1397, Earl Roger who was styled Lord of Usk, Trelleck, Llangibby, Caerleon, Tredunnock, &c., granted a charter, conferring certain privileges on the burgesses of Usk, which charter was confirmed by his son Edmund. Ann, the sister of Edmund, married Richard Duke of York. Edmund being the right heir to the crown was imprisoned during the reign of Henry IV, but Henry V, on his accession had the generosity to liberate his prisoner and restore to him his estates.

Edmund de Mortimer died in 1424. His widow held the castle in dower, she died in 1432, when Richard Duke of York, nephew of Edmund de Mortimer succeeded to the castle and made it his residence, and his two sons Edward and Richard, afterwards Edward IV and Richard III, kings of England were born here.

William ap Thomas (William Herbert, 1st Earl of Pembroke) and his son, the 2nd Earl, were constables of the castle, and it seems probable, that the north porch of the church decorated with the Herbert badge was erected by one of them.

Henry VII gave Usk to his son Arthur, Prince of Wales, upon whose death it reverted to the crown, and was, in 1544, given to Queen Katherine Parr as part of her dower. After her death, Edward VI, on the 6th May, 1550, granted it to Sir William Herbert afterwards Earl of Pembroke.

During the reigns of Henry VII and VIII, the castle appears to have been neglected, and in the valuation of the property in the time of this grant it was stated to be in a ruinous condition and worth nothing and that the herbage of the courts was claimed as a perquisite by the steward. It continued in the Herbert family to the death of Philip, 7th Earl of this branch of the Herberts, and then devolved to his only daughter Charlotte, who married, first, John Lord Jeffreys and, secondly, Thomas Viscount Windsor; their son Herbert Viscount Windsor, sold it to Valen-

tine Morris of Piercefield, who disposed of it to Lord Clive, from whom it was purchased by the 5th Duke of Beaufort, and is now the property of the 8th Duke of Beaufort.



Among the personages connected with Usk Castle several names are introduced and incidents casually mentioned, which should be more fully detailed, these are the following,—

GILBERT DE CLARE.

Who was created Earl of Pembroke in 1138, survived his brother WALTER FITZ-RICHARD DE CLARE (the founder of Tintern Abbey in 1131) nine years, and was buried at Tintern on the 6th January, 1148. He was surnamed Strongbow, on account of his great strength and skill in archery, and whose arms were said to be so long that he could touch his knees when in an erect position with the palms of his hands. At this time, the successes in Wales of the Norman Knights Martin de Terribus and Robert Fitz-Hamon, who were two of the Lords Marchers, created a great sensation in England, and Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Striguil and Lord Marcher of Pembrokeshire, who already had a good portion of territory assigned to him was still desirous of acquiring more, and was constantly presenting himself before Henry I. The king being tired of his importunities, bestowed upon him all the lands of Cadwgan ap Bleddyn, Lord of Cardigan in case he could conquer and bring the country under. He succeeded in doing so, and to defend his usurpation, erected the castles of Aberystwith and Kilgerran. However, Gilbert could not hold these acquisitions in peace, for Owen (the son of Cadwgan, the dispossessed chieftain) raised some followers, and laid waste the possessions of De Clare, who thereupon carried his complaints to King Henry, who swearing that terrible oath that they would not leave one Welshman to draw breath, straightway invaded the country. Owen ap Cadwgan made his peace with the king, but we do not hear how Gilbert and he settled their differences. Gryffyd ap Rhys, prince of South Wales, next stormed the castles which Gilbert had been at so much pains to build, and put the garrisons to the sword. Gilbert left two sons by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Walleran, earl of Melent, Richard (surnamed Strongbow) and Baldwyn. Baldwyn was taken prisoner at the battle of Lincoln, whilst fighting on the part of King Stephen.

RICHARD STRONGBOW



Earl of Striguil and Lord of Pembroke, conqueror of Ireland, was one of the witnesses in the "solemn accorde" made in 1153, between King Stephen and Henry, Duke of Normandy, whereby the latter was to succeed to the crown of England. He was very extravagant and soon became embarrassed, and to add to his adverse fortune he incurred the displeasure of Henry II, on account as some suppose, of his favouring the Welsh, with whom he was more popular than any other Norman. At the time when Richard had the dreary prospect before him, of ending his days in one of his own prisons, an unexpected turn changed the aspect of his affairs. About 1168, Dermot MacMorrrough, ex-king in Leinster, appeared in South Wales with the Royal authority to any English subject to assist the fugitive prince. Richard Strongbow, uncertain as to the wishes of his sovereign, delayed his journey to Ireland to assist Dermot until he made application to Henry, who gave an evasive reply. However, the Lord Marcher of Pembroke embarked with a reinforcement of twelve hundred knights and archers, and reached the Irish shores, 1170. He married Eva, daughter of Dermot, and thereby became possessed of the province of Leinster. He died in Dublin, May 1177, and left an only child, Isabel, who remained ward to the king of England fourteen years, and was then given in marriage to William de la Grace Lord Mareschal of England. She died March 9, 1221, leaving five sons, and was buried at Tintern.





The Priory and its Founders.

THE original building was commenced by Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, surnamed Strongbow, who died in 1148. The pedigree of the founders is as follows:—Richard Fitzgilbert, half brother of William the Conqueror, with whom he came to England, obtained large possessions in different counties, and, being Lord of Clare in Suffolk, was called Richard de Clare. He was a very young man at the conquest and a great friend of William's. He married Rohais, daughter of Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham. Richard Fitz Guilbert, or Richard de Clare, died 1114, and left issue five sons and two daughters, viz., Guilbert Fitz Richard, sometimes called Richard de Tonbridge; 2, Robert; 3, Walter de Clare, the founder of Tintern Abbey; 4, Richard, Abbot of Ely; and 5, Robert de Demon. Guilbert left issue, Richard de Clare (eldest son) Earl of Hereford, who married Christiana, daughter of the Earl of Chester, and left issue from whom the De Clares, Earls of Hertford and Gloucester sprung. Gilbert de Clare (second son) Earl of Pembroke, surnamed Strongbow, also Earl of Chepstow or Striguil, had large possessions in Monmouthshire, and commenced the Priory at Usk; he married Isabella de Bellemont, daughter of Robert, Earl of Mellent in Normandy, and left issue; he died in 1148, and was buried with his wife in Tintern Abbey. Walter de Clare (third son) was Lord of Caerwent. Richard de Clare (son of Gilbert) surnamed like his father Strongbow, was Earl of Striguil or Chepstow and Lord of Raglan, and having property in Usk, was most likely the Lord of Usk castle and manor; he finished the Priory at Usk and granted a charter. By his charter, granted before he started on his expedition to Ireland in 1169, "The nuns used to pray for Richard de Clare and his father Gilbert, their founders." This

Richard was celebrated for his battles in Ireland; he married Eva, daughter of Dermot MacMorrough, King of Leinster. He died in Dublin in 1177, and was buried in Christchurch, Dublin, where his effigy lies with an inscription above it. He left an only daughter, Isabel, who married William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke. The Priory was occupied by five Benedictine nuns, and, in the valuation of the estates of the Priory at the dissolution, the nuns claimed an allowance of 6d. a year paid by them to a priest for praying for the soul of Dr. Adam and "the rynging of his mynd every yere." An apartment on the first floor was ornamented with thirty devices, representing emblazoned coats of arms, probably the armorial bearings of the founders. At the dissolution Elen Williams was the Lady Prioress. His Grace the Duke of Beaufort disposed of the property to Mr. Thomas Watkins, who had the old structure pulled down, and the present house built in 1869. The style of architecture has been partly preserved. The entrance to the Priory grounds is through an arched portal at the churchyard gate in the Anglo-Norman style of architecture. The present occupier is Lieut.-Gen. Barnard.

THE Rev. S. C. Baker, vicar of Usk, on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Cardiff Naturalists Society held at Usk on the 2nd of July 1884, read the following paper on the Priory:—"It is not unusual to find the name of "Priory" given to some modern residence with something of the monastic style about it, but with no traditions or history to give it a right to that name. This is certainly not the case with the pretty but comparatively modern residence—named the "Priory" at Usk. A monastery undoubtedly existed here up to the time of the Dissolution when some 600 "religious houses" were suppressed throughout the Kingdom by Henry VIII. Usk Priory had then to endure its full share in the general confiscation, and now for three and a half centuries it has been in lay hands with a history independent of its monastic antecedents, of which

last chiefly I wish to say a few words. The very position of the Priory might claim for it *a priori* an ecclesiastical origin. It is in direct juxta position to the church of St. Mary's which may be said to stand in the Priory grounds, and whose sacred walls form the northern boundary of these grounds. The original chancel or choir of the church, and all eastward of the tower, once stood on what is now part of the Priory garden and probably a south transept or left arm of the cross extended laterally over a part of the same. The grounds seem indeed to have once formed a consecrated precinct of the Norman Church. Burial grounds in almost all churchyards, perhaps from superstitious motives, were at first on the south and west sides of the church and only when these were full was the north side had recourse to. But Usk churchyard is and has been for some centuries an exception. Here the burial ground is wholly on the north side of the church, and the presumption would be that ages ago the south or Priory side had been used for interments. I have myself seen the most distinct indications of sepulture there, which might have arisen either from the ground being consecrated to that object, or from intramural burials under the south transept, if such there ever was. These considerations alone would give to the Priory the character of an ecclesiastical institution, and the noble arched entrance or lodge of the Priory, near the present churchyard gate, seems formerly to have been the approach to the old church as well as to the Priory, indeed it might have been considered as bearing the character of a massive magnificent lich-gate. But the conventual character of the Usk Priory is not left to be a matter of conjecture, it is placed beyond all question, not only by tradition, but by documentary evidence that has come to light, and from which its origin may be traced back to the middle of the 12th century. At the dissolution, temp, Henry VIII, it had enjoyed an existence as a monastery for about 300 years. Dugdale in his "Monasticon Anglicanum" discovers a distinct mention made in the year 1236 of a Priory

at Uske for five Benedictine nuns, which had then been some time in existence. There is also a valuation of the temporalities of this Priory in Pope Nicholas' taxation dated A.D. 1291. Thirty years later the advowson of the Priory with the hospitium (Yspytty) of Usk was granted by Edward II to one Hugh Spenser. These and other indications or landmarks quoted in the *Monasticon* show that the Priory at Usk had an existence and continuance for at least three centuries before its suppression. But we find an intimation supplied in its last moments discloses a much earlier date. In order to carry out the process of spoliation or impropriation, it was necessary to make a valuation of the net income of each monastery that was suppressed. A copy of that for Uske is preserved in M.S., in the office of "First fruits." This document purports to be "The true reckoning of all the rents of Assize, Demesne, Lands, Tythings, Oblations, Offerings and of all other commodities. Issues and Profits, one year with another belonging or appertaining to the Monastery or Priory of Uske." The Receipts are from Rents and tythings of every sort of produce and among other items are offerings to the images in the Parish Church of Usk 1s 2d. Also offerings in the Chapels of St. Radegand and St. Mary Magdalene, 1s 8d and 1s 3d respectively. These offerings were carried into the general funds of the Priory, which, "one year with another," made up the sum in gross of £69 9s 8½d. But against this are set the "deductions," £14 5s 3d, which include a pension to a former Prioress and payment for prayer to be offered for the dead "in the Parish Church of Uske." It is in this latter entry we find the intimation which helps us with almost certainty to fix the date when the Priory was founded—for there is an item of £1, to be expended annually "upon Sherethursday in almes to pray for the Founders—viz., Sir Richard de Clare, Sir Gilbert his son Earles of the Marches"—and for other descendants and benefactors. Now this first-named Founder, Sir Richard de Clare, was none other than

the well-known Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Striguil, memorable in history for his ill-received successes in Ireland, which excited the jealousy of his Sovereign Henry II. Both Richard the father and Gilbert the son are named as Founders and to be prayed for as such. But Richard's father was also named Gilbert, and must not be confounded with Gilbert his son and successor. His uncle, Walter de Clare, was the Founder of Tintern Abbey; and so he and his son were but following the family penchant for abbey building when they founded the Priory at Usk. This incidental entry, made about 1535, places the date and completion of the Priory in the lifetime of Richard and Gilbert de Clare, *i.e.*, about the middle of the 12th century—or perhaps, (as has been observed) it may have been begun by the father (1148) in the reign of King Stephen, and completed by the son when the Charter was granted, 1169, in the time of Henry II. Thus we have in the Usk Priory a very ancient and interesting foundation. It possessed considerable Church patronage. At a very early period the Prioress and Convent had six livings in their gift, among which were Raglan, Llanbaddock, and Usk. A watermill in Llanbaddock is more than once alluded to. This is no doubt, what to this day is called the "Prioress Mill," about a mile from Usk, in the village of Rhadyr. At the dissolution the last Prioress was Dame Ellen Williams, but her predecessor was then living and enjoying from the Priory a pension of £7 a year in money, and "for her mete and drynke." Now as to the last scene of all. It was ten years after its dissolution, 1546, that one Roger Williams, not scrupling to hold confiscated property, made a bid "to the King's Highness," Edward VI., for the whole of the "lands, messuages, &c. (including the watermill)," that had belonged to the Priory. I can't say how much he gave for it, but he was permitted to purchase, with the reservation it seems, that the tythes, patronage, parsonages, and spiritual

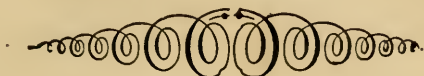
promotion were not to be included, but separately sold. Mr. Roger Williams, however, could not be content without possessing these also. About three years later he joined with a London friend, Mr Thomas Marsh, in buying up all the tythes, advowsons, offerings, and rights that had belonged and appertained to the Priory of Usk at the time of the dissolution. Edward VI. had then come to the throne, and that young Sovereign, with the advice of his "very dear uncle and councillor, Edward Duke of Somerset," granted this for the sum of £931 2s 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. Thus the Priory, with its purtenances and privileges, temporal and spiritual, became entirely and ultimately a lay possession, and has continued so for the last 338 years. At the commencement of this century, Coxe, who pictures its porch, found it degenerated into a farm house, with some small remains of the Priory. It had been sold, not long before, by the descendants of Roger Williams, of Llangibby, to one "Alderman Haley," then recently deceased. But, though so secularized, there were remnants even then of its former grandeur, for Coxe describes "the frieze of the ceiling" of an apartment on the first floor, decorated with thirty emblematical devices and emblazoned arms, probably the coats of benefactors. These, while the Priory was possessed by the Duke of Beaufort, were moved to Cefntilla. The subsequent history for the last fifty years is known to many inhabitants of Usk. It was purchased and restored by the late Mr Watkins, of High Mead, whose son is the present proprietor, from whom it has been rented successively by Mr Lawrence, of Llangibby Castle, the present Sir William Heathcote, and the present tenant General Barnard.





of St. Mary is in proximity to the Priory. Mr. Freeman in his remarks upon this edifice says:—"The first thing which must strike every one is the situation of the tower; it is now at the east end, but no doubt it originally formed the centre of the building." This is no doubt correct, for from the Priory garden, the marks of the roof are plainly discernible. It was attached to the Priory of Nuns, founded by Earl Richard de Clare, and was both a conventual and parochial church. The original tower was very massive, and the upper part as it at present stands was an addition of the 15th century. In the upper story, which has been added, is a window with a rounded arch, which gives it the appearance of Norman, it was not so, but the erectors had the good taste to keep in character with the rest of the building. It appeared to be a conventual Norman Church of the 12th century; in the 13th century the nave was rebuilt; in the 15th century the aisle was recast and other arrangements took place. Some of the doorways in the priory corresponded with the architecture of those in the church. In 1844, the church underwent great alterations, by which 344 additional seats were obtained. The plan of the seats prior to the alteration is to be seen in the vestry. At the time of the alteration a gallery extending along the north side of the church and intercepting the light from the windows was taken down, and a wing for the reception of the organ in a gallery near the roof was added. At the same time a wall at the east end was demolished, which disclosed to view the four Norman arches, with the corbels and groinings, which now form the chancel. At the Easter Vestry Meeting 1875 at my suggestion a resolution was passed to remove the organ gallery and place the

organ in its present position, as the large west-window was entirely concealed by the organ, which darkened that part of the church, and the deep gallery in which it stood rendered almost useless a number of seats beneath it. The removal of the organ and gallery opened out the window and brought into use those seats which are now well situated for hearing the service.



The Puzzling Brass Plate.

Affixed to the basement of the carved screen and near the pulpit, is a brass plate 20 inches long by 3 broad, inscribed in antique characters, having in some of the words two letters running into each other, which has excited the attention of the learned, not only in determining the explanation, but the language of which it is composed: by one it has been considered to denote the long residence of the Romans in these parts; by another to be the epitaph on a professor of astronomy and head of the college of philosophy at Caerleon; some have supposed the language to be a mixture of Latin and early English; and Mr. Owen says the language is a dialect used in the 15th century; Mr. Evans, a learned vicar of St. Woollos, Newport, and Mr. Owen, the author of the British Dictionary, consider the inscription to have been sepulchral; whilst the Rev. Wm. Evans, the late vicar of Usk, a Welshman by birth, considered the language to be a corrupt dialect of Gwent and Morganwg; and Mr. Wakeman, at an Antiquarian Meeting held at Usk, on the 5th of August, 1856, said: "It may appear presumptuous on his part to lay his interpretation before them when so many had failed to make it out or gave a very different meaning to it. Dr. Owen Pugh makes it out to be a monumental inscription," but, if so, it appeared strange that no name should be mentioned. The

characters are of Henry III.'s reign in the 13th century,"

It may be of interest to give the inscription as near as possible, the words are as follows, and attached thereto I give the different versions:—

A copy of it appears in Gough's Camden, vol. iv. p. 115. From Harris it reads:—

Nole clode yr ethrode yar lleyn aduocade llawn hade llandeyn
Abaruour bede breynt a pile ty n ev aro ty hauabe,
Setiff sun o eir siun a seadam yske eval huske
Deke kummode doctor Kymmen llen a loc i llawn oleue.

Thus translated:—

"Mark this object of fame to the disgrace of the blade;
Were he not cover'd, London would be in difficulty.
Then let us consecrate the grave of Briant the son of Llydd,
Who in judgment was an elder;
Solomon, profound of word was he;
And the sod of Isca his bed of sleep!
Ardently he would reconcile the eloquent, and the wise,
The clergy and the laity would be fully illumined."

REV. W. COXE, IN HIS HISTORICAL TOUR.

(The old Welsh to be read letter for letter)

Nole clode yr ethrode yar lleyn advocade llawn hade llandeyn
A Barnon rhede breynta paitræ ty nevaro ty havaile
Seliff swynoer siun a se Adam Uske eval kuske
lle va loed i Hawn oleue Deke Kummode doctor Kymmen.

(Explanation in modern Welsh as it would be written)

Ynole cloddai yr ethrodiar lleyn Advocâd llawn hâd llundeyn
A Baruon ar hyd breintiau prentau Ty' Nevaro ty Havalie
Selif synwyr senn y sydd oddiam Uske y rel Cyseal
Deg cymmod, doctor cymmen, lle bo lloe ei llawn o leuen.

(The close translation with the original idiom is)

In that place was buried the teacher, Lord, learned, Advocate, of full competency of London and Baron of the liberties of the Villages of Ty' Nevaro ty Havalie, a Solomon of discreet counsel around Usk as far as sleep ten commots, an eloquent Doctor where the moon has her full lustres.

REV. MR. EVANS, VICAR OF ST. WOOLLOS, NEWPORT.

"In that place was buried the teacher, lord, learned. Advocate of full competency, of London; and baron of the liberties of the villages of Ty' Nevaro ty Havalie A Solomon of discreet counsel, around Usk, so far as sleep ten commots, an eloquent doctor where the moon has her full lustres."

MR. OWEN, AUTHOR OF THE BRITISH DICTIONARY.

"Ah, behold the grave of the great teacher is the sod of the Vale! When a battle took place. London felt embarrassed, and the song of the bards of ancient lore, and their joy, all vanish through his death; He who was like Solomon, profound of word, on Isca's banks his couch of sleep! Fairly the eloquent doctor reconciled disputes: Clergy and laity were fully enlightened by him."

REV. WM. EVANS, B. D., VICAR OF USK.

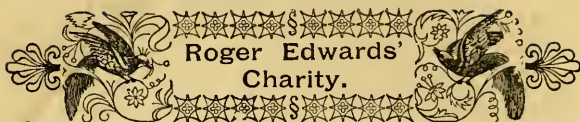
"There will be praise in after times to this spot, on account of this distinguished man. A counsellor fraught with stores of learning, the fruits of a London education. As magistrate he secured to those around him peace, which fills with her blessings the wide expanse of our heavenly home. Noted also as an astrologer, Seliff lies in silken slumbers here in Usk. In quarrels amongst his neighbours the worthy doctor was lways found a successful arbitrator: nor could he who sought from him instruction fail to be fully enlightened."

MR. THOMAS WAKEMAN.

"The intention of this stone of separation is to mark the legal decision of the gift to the prioress. She and her household will rejoice. So Adam is a Solomon in intellect and reposes in Usk, and the liberties of Ty-navaro and Ty-havabe, and he is bright as the moon and full of light. Equitably did the eloquent sage settle the dispute."

Mr. Wakeman observed that this Dr. Adam was a well known character, generally known as Adam Gwent, and was the progenitor of a great many families in this county, and lived in the reign of Henry III, the date assigned by Mr. Freeman to the first alteration of the church. Adam Gwent was the steward to the last Welsh lords of Caerleon, and appears to have held a similar situation under the Marshals, and therefore a likely person to be called upon to arbitrate in this dispute. In the valuation of the estates of the Priory at the dissolution, the nuns claimed an allowance of 6d. a year paid by them to a priest for praying for the soul of Dr. Adam and "the rynging of his mynd every yere"





THE founder of these schools was one Roger Edwards, who resided at Alltabilla, about three miles distant from Usk, in the parish of Llangwm Ucha, and was proprietor of that and considerable other property in Llangwm, Llangeview, and neighbouring parishes. He names in his will three nephews—Walter Williams, William James, and Jenkin Williams. On the 29th of April, 1621, he, by deed, which was enrolled in the year 1627, constituted three distinct charities, the funds for the maintenance of which were to be received from certain land specifically appropriated to each of the three charities. They were each to be administered by the same trustees. One of these charities, which is now called the "Usk Branch," had assigned to it landed estates at Llanbaddoc and Raglan, at present amounting to 285 acres. This branch includes the free school, which he directed to be established, and certain local doles. The second branch, called the "Alms-house Branch" of the Charity, had appropriated to it nearly 397 acres of land. This branch, includes the alms-house at Coedcwnnwr. The third branch, now called the "Country or Tyny-lay Branch," had assigned to it 47 acres of land. Roger Edwards made a will, dated January 18, 1622, confirming what he had done by deed, and this will was proved at Llandaff, 23rd of February, 1636. Mr Roger Edwards died on the 28th March, 1624. The charity does not seem to have commenced very successfully, for in the year 1663, or twenty-seven years after it was in operation, it made an appearance in Chancery, and a commission was issued, under the great seal, to enquire into, and to correct abuses in its management. The record of the proceedings to correct what could have been ascertained in a few hours, is still a curiosity on account of its

size, and as an illustration of the round-about way of lawyers to do very simple acts. Out of nine trustees at that time, five were named Rumsey, and three were named Morgan. From the year 1663 to the year 1772, there seems to be nothing known of the administration of the charity. In the year 1700, the rents amounted to the sum of £123 0s. 8d. The schoolmaster then received £30 a year, his house was valued at £6 a year, and an "Oxford" scholar received £5. The receiver of rents was paid £2. This was the only charge for the management, and there were no law costs. The 47 acres at Tyr-y-lay were then let at £6 13s. 11d. a year. In 1772, the charity was again in the Court of Chancery, and there it remained until the year 1862. All the Chancery proceedings to that date, were supplemental to the information of year 1772. It should be understood that, under the trust, there was to be a free school maintained, for a sufficient learned master, and for the education and teaching of children. The extent of the learning of the master, and the character of the teaching to be given in the school, were indicated by a provision for the payment by the trustees of £5 yearly, to be paid to "one poor scholar who should be ready to depart from the said free school, and fit to go to study at the University of Oxford, to help him for his admittance and charges thither." No person could change the destination of the property. The trustees had only one duty to perform, and that was to sustain a grammar school, and so far as there were means provided, to execute the trust. About the year 1812, there was established in Usk, by voluntary subscription, a Lancasterian school. The trustees, also, endeavoured to support a writing school, and in the year 1811, they sought to obtain a decree of the Court of Chancery to sanction its maintenance, but no order to this effect was obtained. In 1826, the Rev. Thomas Williams was appointed master of the grammar school, and he held the appointment for about fourteen years. The grammar school was then flourishing, and he had in

the house he then rented—the Priory—twenty boarders. In 1843, the trustees declared that an experiment to unite the mastership of the grammar school and writing school had failed, and decided that the school should be brought back to its former and long-established constitution of a grammar and writing school in separate schools with the following alterations:—That the grammar master should have the tuition of not exceeding thirty boys, and, if required, they should be instructed in writing, arithmetic, geography, and the classics, and the master should be allowed to take private pupils, and if a clergyman also to be appointed chaplain to the almshouse. The writing master to instruct in reading, writing, and the elements of arithmetic, as many of the children of the privileged parishes, as the trustees should at any time direct, in the school-room lately used as a National School. The Rev. J. P. R. Shepard continued master of the grammar school, and on the 8th of November Mr. William Whitmore was appointed master of the writing school. In 1850 the Rev. W. H. Wrenford was appointed master of the grammar school. In 1860, the master of the grammar school received £60 a year, and a house, in which, if he had any child or daughter, he would have had no room in which he could put a boarder, and the room which he could so use was a very small one. He could take no boarders if he had a family of his own. Externally, his house had a neat appearance; internally, it had no accommodation for boarders. The school-room, detached from the house, was cold, ill-furnished, nasty, and wanting in every accommodation. It had every defect of ventilation and comfort which the most ingenious architect could have contrived for the punishment of the children. The writing school master received also £60 a year. In connection with this school was a girls' elementary school; but the mistress of this school received no fixed salary, and depended on the pence of the girls, and a voluntary subscription of the inhabitants of the town of Usk, for her support. This subscription

varied in amount, from £16 to £24 in each year, and the pence money of both schools to about £24 a year. The total income, therefore, of the master of the writing school and of his wife, the mistress, was about £100 a year, and a house. The master of the grammar school received £60 a year and house, and certain quarterly payments from the scholars. In this year, a new deed for the appointment of trustees was executed. The parties to the deed who conveyed the estates were Mr. Nicholl, who was appointed in 1808; Mr Williams, of Llangibby Castle, who was appointed in the year 1821; and the Rev. Fowell Jones, who became a trustee in 1842. They were the surviving trustees. Seven other new trustees were appointed by them, four of whom were clergymen. On the 20th of November, 1860, it was unanimously resolved that an application should be made to the Charity Commissioners to depute an inspector to report on the state of the charities, and to establish a new scheme. By the 4th section of the Act of 1860, the Commissioners were authorised, on the application of the trustees of a charity, or the majority of the trustees, when the income is above £50, to make such orders as might be made by the Court of Chancery, for the establishment of a scheme for the administration of charity, and to exercise other powers. Application was made in the September following the passing of the Act. Mr. Martin was sent down as an inspector. He had evidence publicly given him of the state of the charity, and himself visited the alms-houses, and inspected part of the estates. Any person who desired to say anything to him was fully heard. Finally, a scheme was passed.

On the 20th of May, 1862, Thomas Falconer, Esq., William Henry Nicholl, Esq., Rev. Stephen Cattley Baker, Rev. Arthur Williams, Rev. William Price, Daniel Esbury Partridge, Esq., Iltyd Nicholl, Esq., and the Rev. John Fowell Jones, the then trustees, made an application in writing to the Charity Commissioners for a new scheme for the government of the charity, which was framed and received the seal

of the Board on the 7th of November. In this revised scheme it was ordered "That in future there should be fourteen trustees, who shall be fit and competent persons resident in the parish of Usk or within five miles of the church thereof." Any trustee who ceased to reside as above, or who shall not have attended any meeting of the trustees during a consecutive period of two years, shall cease to be a trustee, and a new trustee shall be appointed by the other trustees, but the appointment shall not be valid until the same shall be approved of by the Commissioners. "That for the purposes of this scheme the charity shall be divided into three branches, to be called respectively, 'The Usk Branch,' 'The Almshouse Branch,' and 'The Country Branch,' and separate and full accounts shall be kept of the receipts and expenditure of the trustees in respect to each branch of the Charity, which accounts shall be examined and passed annually at the December meeting and signed by the trustees the present." The scheme sets forth the proportion to be appropriated to each branch, the appointment of grammar master, the admission of scholars, and the election of alms people. By Clauses xii., xiii., xiv., and xv. the following was laid down, viz. :—The Trustees shall divide the net annual income of the Usk Branch of the Charity into ten equal parts or shares, and shall apply one of such parts or shares for or towards the support or benefit of any school or schools, for the education of children of the labouring and industrial population of Usk, subject to the provisions of the Endowed Schools' Act, 1860, for securing the admission of children of all religious Denominations to the benefit of such schools. Out of two other such parts or shares, the Trustees shall be at liberty to continue the payment of the money gifts or doles heretofore made out of the income of the Charity, to such of the poor persons now receiving the same as are legal objects to the Charity; and subject thereto, the same two parts or shares shall either be added to, and applied with, the one part or share

herein previously mentioned, or the same shall be applied by the Trustees at their discretion to other charitable purposes, for the benefit of the deserving resident poor of Usk, not being gratuitous gifts or doles of money, food, or clothing. The Trustees shall permit the buildings and premises in Usk, now used respectively as a Writing School and Girls' School, and the Master's house and garden adjoining, to be occupied and used, rent free, for the purposes of the School or Schools contemplated by the preceding clause; and the same buildings and premises respectively shall be put and kept in repair, and insured against fire, by the Trustees, out of the said share or shares of the income applicable to the support of the same School or Schools. The remaining 7-10th parts or shares of the said income shall be applied by the Trustees, in or towards the maintenance and support of the Grammar School in Usk, as hereinafter mentioned. The buildings and premises in Usk, heretofore used as the Grammar School House and Master's residence, and the land and garden adjoining thereto, shall be occupied and used, rent free, for the purposes of the said Grammar School, and the residence and accommodation of the Master, and shall be kept in repair and insured by the Trustees, out of the proportion of the income of the Charity applicable to the support of the said Grammar School."

This scheme was acted upon until the year 1877, when a public meeting was called by the Portreeve on the requisition of a number of the inhabitants.

This meeting was held at the Town-hall, Usk, on Thursday the 19th of April, 1877. The Portreeve (Mr. J. H. Clark) presided, and the meeting was composed of persons who have a direct interest in the welfare of the school, there being present—Messrs. James Jones (grocer), J. F. Powell, H. C. Griffin, John Roberts, T. Hambly, Charles Miller, John Morgan, H. Williams, C. Stockham, J. Billingham, James Williams, J. T. Cherry, Henry Jenkins, T. Davies, W. A. Day, Rev. J. Matthews, Messrs. James Jones (builder), John Herbert, W. H. Slade, —

Phillips, A. Lewis, James Morgan, E. Dixon, etc.

The Portreeve, in opening the meeting, said, that in pursuance of a requisition signed by many respectable inhabitants of the borough, he had convened the meeting for the purpose of taking into consideration the desirability of memorializing the Charity Commissioners as to the future management of the Grammar School. In 1621, Mr Roger Edwards conveyed several properties to the poor of the parishes of Llangwm, Llangeview, Gwernesney, and Usk, and appointed trustees to carry out his will. Among his benefactions he devised certain lands towards maintaining a Free Grammar School in the town of Usk, and also gave a house and garden in the town to be used for the habitation of the master, rent free. The school, for many years, was a very excellent one, and many of the ancestors of the present generation received a good classical and commercial education therein, there being two masters, one for the teaching of the Latin Grammar and the other for teaching writing and the rudimentary branches of the English language. For the past forty years the school had not been conducted to the satisfaction of the parties interested and they had met to endeavour to get the school put upon a better footing. A new master was to be appointed, and the inhabitants naturally desired that such an appointment be made as would ensure a competent person for the duties. In 1862 a scheme was established, and fourteen persons were to be appointed trustees, who should be fit and competent persons, resident in the parish of Usk or within five miles of the town. The present trustees are—Rev. S. C. Baker, Rev. Arthur Williams, Col. Roden, A. J. Shepard, Esq., Thomas Dunn, Esq., and D. Boulton, Esq., Usk; Col. Byrde, Goytre; Rev. S. W. Gardner, and Mr. S. W. Gardner, Trostre; W. B. Gething, Esq., Llanbadoc; J. J. Stone, Esq., Scyborwen; Rev. William Price, Llangwm; Rev. James Blower, Gwernesney; and Edward Lister, Esq., Llanbadoc. The causes which had led to the unpopularity of the school for so many years were

numerous, and would occupy too much time to recapitulate. It was not necessary for him to enlarge further upon the subject, but to leave it to those persons who wished the meeting convened to adopt such resolutions as they thought desirable.

Mr. Hambly asked if there had not been a new scheme sent down?

The Portreeve: I have no knowledge of any later scheme than 1862. If there be one, it has not been made public.

Mr. Hambly: I understand there has been a draught scheme sent down, which took the appointment of the master out of the hands of the Trustees.

After considerable discussion, the following resolution was put before the meeting and carried unanimously:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the Trustees should be selected more frequently from the tradespeople of the town of Usk and the parishes named by Roger Edwards, gentleman, and not from distant parishes, who take no interest in the Charity whatever, and frequently reside out of the County; and that those Trustees who have not attended the meetings of the Charity for six months should be invited to resign."—The following result ensued:—

On the 27th day of November, 1878, present—the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council, the following Scheme for the administration of the Usk Branch of the above-mentioned Charity was approved of:—

FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF FOUNDATION.

1.—The Usk Branch of the above-mentioned Charity and the endowment of such Branch specified in Part I. of the second Schedule to the above-mentioned Scheme, and all other the endowments of such Branch shall henceforth be administered as a separate Foundation, in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme, by the Governing Body herein-after constituted, under the name of Usk Grammar School Foundation, herein-after called the Foundation.

CERTAIN TRUSTS CONTINUED.

2.—So much of the income of the Foundation as

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represents the 3-10th parts of the net annual income of the Usk Branch of the said Charity applicable under Clause 12 of the said Scheme, shall be administered by the Governing Body herein-after constituted in the same manner in which such parts respectively would have been administered if this Scheme had not been made, but so that such manner shall not be inconsistent with anything contained in the Endowed Schools' Acts, 1869, 1873, and 1874. So long as the Master's house mentioned in Clause 13 of the said Scheme is used as a residence for the principal Teacher of a Public Elementary School, the Governors shall allow the garden adjoining, mentioned in the same Clause, to be used rent free by such principal Teacher. Subject as aforesaid, the Endowment shall be applicable wholly for the educational purposes of this Scheme.

GOVERNING BODY.

3.—The Governing Body of the Foundation, herein-after called the Governors, shall, when completely formed and full, consist of nine competent persons duly qualified to discharge the duties of the office, and shall be appointed by the following electing bodies respectively in the following proportions, and for the following terms of office ; that is to say—

Four for the term of five years by the Local Board of Usk ; such four being rated to the relief of the poor on a yearly value of not less than £20 and resident within the district of the said Local Board ; and

Five for the term of seven years by the Trustees for the time being of the Almshouse Branch and the Country Branch of the said Charity under the said Scheme, herein-after called the Trustees.

Such appointments shall be made as often as there may be occasion by the body entitled to appoint, at a meeting thereof which shall be convened, held, and conducted as nearly as may be in conformity with the ordinary rules or practice of such body, or failing such rules or practice, then in conformity with regulations to be made or approved by the Charity

Commissioners for England and Wales. The term in each case shall be reckoned from the date of the appointment. The first Governors shall be appointed as soon as conveniently may be after the date of this Scheme. The Chairman or other presiding officer of each meeting at which the appointment of any Representative Governors or Governor shall be made, shall forthwith cause the names or name of the persons or person so appointed to be notified, in the case of the first such appointment, to the Clerk to the Trustees, and in the case of every subsequent appointment to the Chairman of the Governors or their Clerk, if any, or other acting officer. Any appointment of a Representative Governor not made as aforesaid within six calendar months from the date of this Scheme, or of the notice herein-after prescribed of the occurrence of a vacancy, as the case may be, shall for that turn be made by the then existing Governors.

The proper expenses attending the appointment of every Governor, unless otherwise provided for, shall, on the particulars thereof being submitted to and allowed by the Charity Commissioners, be paid by the Governors out of the income of the Foundation.

VACANCIES.

4.—Any Governor who shall become bankrupt or incapacitated to act, or express in writing his wish to resign, or omit for the space of two consecutive years to attend any meeting, or being a Governor appointed by the said Local Board shall cease to reside within the district thereof, or to be rated to the relief of the poor on a yearly value of not less than £20, shall thereupon forthwith vacate the office of Governor; and the Governors shall cause an entry to be made in their minute book of every vacancy occasioned by any of the said causes, or by the death or the expiration of the term of office of any Governor; and as soon as conveniently may be after the occurrence of any vacancy a new Governor shall be appointed by the body entitled as aforesaid to make such appointment. Any Governor may be re-appointed. Notice of the occurrence of every

vacancy of the office of Governor shall be given, as soon as conveniently may be by or under the direction of the Governors to the proper electing body or the clerk, if any, or other acting officer of such body.

RELIGIOUS OPINIONS NO DISQUALIFICATION.

5.—Religious opinions, or attendance or non-attendance at any particular form of religious worship, shall not in any way affect the qualification of any person for being a Governor under this Scheme.

DECLARATION BY GOVERNORS ON ENTRY INTO OFFICE.

6.—Every Governor shall, at or before the first meeting which he attends upon his first or any subsequent appointment, sign a memorandum declaring his acceptance of the office of Governor, and his willingness to act in the trusts of this Scheme. And until he has signed such a memorandum he shall not be entitled to discharge the functions of a Governor.

MEETINGS OF GOVERNORS.

7.—The Governors shall hold meetings in some convenient place in Usk, or elsewhere, as often as may be found necessary or desirable, and at least twice in each year, on and at convenient days and times to be appointed by themselves, and to be notified to each Governor by the clerk, if any, or by some other person acting under the direction of the Governors, at least seven days previously to every meeting.

PRELIMINARY MEETING.

8.—A preliminary meeting for the arrangement of the conduct of the business shall be held upon the summons of the Clerk to the Trustees upon some day to be fixed by him being within one calendar month after the time at which, under the provisions herein contained, the administration of the Foundation shall pass to the Governors in place of the present Governing Body.

CHAIRMAN.

9.—The Governors shall, at the preliminary meeting, and afterwards at their first meeting in each year, elect one of their number to be Chairman of

their meetings for the current year, and they shall also make regulations for supplying his place in case of his death, resignation, or absence during his term of office. The Chairman shall always be re-eligible.

QUORUM AND VOTING.

10.—A quorum shall be constituted when three Governors are present at a meeting. All matters and questions shall be determined by the majority of the Governors present at a duly constituted meeting; and in case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Whenever any decision is carried by the votes of less than a majority of the number of Governors for the time being, any two Governors may, within fifteen days from the day of the decision, require by a notice addressed to the Chairman of the meeting that the decision shall be once re-considered at a special meeting to be held not later than one calendar month next after such decision.

SPECIAL MEETINGS.

11.—The Chairman or any two Governors may at any time summon a special meeting for any cause that seems to him or them sufficient. All special meetings shall be convened by or under the direction of the person or persons summoning the meeting by notice in writing delivered or sent by post to each Governor, specifying the object of the meeting. And it shall be the duty of the clerk, if any, to give such notice when required by the Chairman or by any Governors having a right to summon such meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETINGS.

12.—If a sufficient number of Governors to form a quorum are not present at any meeting, or if the business at any meeting is not fully completed, those present may adjourn the meeting to a subsequent day and time, of which notice shall be given in manner aforesaid to each Governor.

MINUTES.

13.—A minute book and proper books of account shall be provided by the Governors, and kept in some convenient and secure place of deposit to be provided or appointed by them for that purpose, and minutes

of the entry into office of every new Governor, and of all proceedings of the Governors, shall be entered in such minute book.

ACCOUNTS.

14.—The Governors shall cause full accounts to be kept of the receipts and expenditure in respect of the Foundation; and such accounts shall be stated for each year, and examined and passed annually by the Governors at the first meeting in the ensuing year, unless some other meeting shall be appointed for the purpose with the approval of the Charity Commissioners, and every such account shall be signed by the Governors present at the meeting at which it shall be passed.

The Governors shall cause sufficient abstracts of the accounts to be published annually for general information. Such abstracts shall be in the form given in the Schedule hereto, unless some other form is prescribed by the Charity Commissioners, in which case the form so prescribed shall be followed.

BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS.

15.—The Governors may from time to time make such arrangements as they may find most fitting for the custody of all deeds and other documents belonging to the Foundation, for deposit of money, for the drawing of cheques, and also for the appointment of a clerk or of any necessary agents or other proper officers for their assistance in the conduct of the business of the Foundation, at such reasonable salaries or scale of remuneration as shall be approved by the Charity Commissioners, but no Governor acting as such clerk or officer shall be entitled to any salary or remuneration.

VESTING PROPERTY.

16.—From and after the date of this Scheme all lands and hereditaments, not being copyhold, belonging to the Foundation, and all terms, estates, and interests therein, shall be vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands and his successors in trust for the Foundation; and all copyhold hereditaments belonging to the Foundation, and all terms, estates, and interests therein, shall be vested in like manner,

upon such terms and conditions as shall be agreed upon between the Governors and the lord of the manor, and all stock in the public funds and other securities belonging to the Foundation, and not hereby required or directed to be otherwise applied or disposed of, shall be transferred to the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds in trust for the Foundation.

MANAGEMENT AND LETTING OF ESTATES.

17.—All the estates and property of the Foundation not required to be retained or occupied for the purposes thereof, shall be let or otherwise managed by the Governors or by their officers acting under their orders, according to the general law applicable to the management of property by trustees of charitable foundations.

TIMBER AND MINERALS.

18.—Any money arising from the sale of timber or from any mines or minerals on the estates of the Foundation shall be treated as capital, and shall be invested in the name of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, under the direction of the Charity Commissioners, except in any special cases in which the Governors may be authorised by such Commissioners to deal otherwise with such money or any part thereof.

TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION OF FOUNDATION TO GOVERNORS.

19.—So soon as the full number of Governors shall have been completed according to the provisions of this Scheme, or upon the expiration of the first three calendar months after the date of this Scheme, if the full number of Governors shall not then have been completed, the administration of the Foundation shall pass to the said Governors in place of the present Governing Body, and such Governing Body shall thereupon, so far as relates to the subject matter of this Scheme, become ipso facto removed and discharged from their office, and shall cause all deeds, minute and account books, and other papers and documents belonging or relating exclusively to the Foundation, and all cash balances and personal

effects belonging thereto, and not herein required to be transferred to or vested in the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, to be delivered or transferred unto the said Governors or as they shall direct. In the meantime the Foundation shall continue to be administered and managed so far as may be necessary by the present Governing Body as nearly as may be in conformity with the provisions of this Scheme. The aforesaid time of three calendar months may be extended, if necessary, by an order of the Charity Commissioners, made upon the application of any one or more of the present Governing Body, or of the Governors, if any.

20.—After the administration of the Foundation has passed to the Governors as aforesaid, the Governors for the time being, if a quorum is constituted, may act for all the purposes of this Scheme although the Governing Body as herein-before constituted is not full.

TEMPORARY SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS.

21.—So far as may be practicable and convenient, the School may be carried on as heretofore until the end of any school term current at the date of this Scheme, or until such other time as may with the approval of the Charity Commissioners be fixed by the body for the time being having the administration of the Foundation under this Scheme.

PROVISIONS AS TO SCHOOL TO BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

The Governors shall take all requisite measures for bringing the provisions of this Scheme into active operation for the regulation of the School as soon as practicable, and they shall have power to make all suitable and proper arrangements for that purpose.

THE SCHOOL AND ITS MANAGEMENT.

SCHOOL OF THE FOUNDATION.

22.—The School of the Foundation shall be a day and boarding School, and shall be maintained in or near the town of Usk, in the present buildings or in any other suitable buildings hereafter to be provided by the Governors.

MASTERS NOT TO BE REQUIRED TO BE IN HOLY ORDERS.

23.—No person shall be disqualified for being a Master in the School by reason only of his not being, or not intending to be, in Holy Orders.

HEAD MASTER.—APPOINTMENT.

24.—There shall be a Head Master of the School. He shall be a graduate of some University in the United Kingdom, or have such other qualification or certificate or other test of his attainments as may be fixed from time to time by any regulation of the Governors, approved by the Charity Commissioners. Every future Head Master shall be appointed by the Governors at some meeting to be called for that purpose, as soon as conveniently may be after the occurrence of a vacancy, or after notice of an intended vacancy. In order to obtain the best candidates, the Governors shall, for a sufficient time before making any appointment, give public notice of the vacancy and invite applicants for the office by advertisements in newspapers, or by such other methods as they may judge best calculated to secure the object.

DISMISSAL.

25.—The Governors may dismiss the Head Master without assigning cause, after six calendar months' written notice, given to him in pursuance of a resolution passed at two consecutive meetings held at an interval of at least fourteen days, and convened for that purpose, such resolution being affirmed at each meeting by not less than two-thirds of the Governors present.

The Governors, for what in their opinion is urgent cause, may by resolution passed at a special meeting convened for that purpose, and affirmed by not less than two-thirds of the whole number of Governors for the time being, declare that the Head Master ought to be dismissed from his office without the aforesaid notice, and in that case they may appoint another special meeting to be held not less than a week after the former one, and may then by a similar resolution, affirmed by as large a proportion of Governors, absolutely and finally dismiss him. And

if the Governors assembled at the first of such meetings think fit at once to suspend the Head Master from his office until the next meeting, they may do so by resolution affirmed by as large a proportion of Governors. Full notice and opportunity of defence at both meetings shall be given to the Head Master.

DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED BY HEAD MASTER.

26.—Every future Head Master, previously to entering into office, shall be required to sign a declaration, to be entered in the minute book of the Governors, to the following effect:—

“I, _____, declare that I will always
“to the best of my ability discharge the duties of
“Head Master of Usk Grammar School during my
“tenure of the office, and that if I am removed by
“the Governors I will acquiesce in such removal,
“and will thereupon relinquish all claim to the
“mastership and its future emoluments, and will
“deliver up to the Governors, or as they direct,
“possession of all the property of the School then
“in my possession or occupation.”

HEAD MASTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE.

27.—The Head Master shall dwell in the residence assigned for him. He shall have the occupation and use of such residence and of any other property of the School of which he becomes the occupant as such Head Master, in respect of his official character and duties, and not as tenant, and shall, if removed from his office, deliver up possession of such residence and other property to the Governors, or as they direct. He shall not, except with the permission of the Governors, permit any person not being a member of his family to occupy such residence or any part thereof.

HEAD MASTER NOT TO HAVE OTHER EMPLOYMENT.

28.—The Head Master shall give his personal attention to the duties of the School, and during his tenure of office he shall not hold any benefice having the cure of souls, or undertake any office or employment which, in the opinion of the Governors, may interfere with the proper performance of his duties as Head Master.

MASTERS NOT TO BE GOVERNORS.

29.—No Head or Assistant Master of the School shall be a Governor.

MASTERS NOT TO RECEIVE OTHER THAN AUTHORIZED FEES.

30.—Neither the Head Master nor any Assistant Master shall receive or demand from any boy in the School, or from any person whomsoever on behalf of any such boy, any gratuity, fee, or payment, except such as are prescribed or authorized by this Scheme.

JURISDICTION OF GOVERNORS OVER SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS.

31.—Within the limits fixed by this Scheme, the Governors shall prescribe the general subjects of instruction, the relative prominence and value to be assigned to each group of subjects, the arrangements respecting the school terms, vacations, and holidays, the payment of day scholars, and the number and payments of boarders. They shall take general supervision of the sanitary condition of the school buildings and arrangements. They shall determine what number of Assistant Masters shall be employed. They shall every year assign the amount which they think proper to be contributed out of the income of the Foundation for the purpose of maintaining Assistant Masters and providing and maintaining a proper school plant or apparatus, and otherwise furthering the current objects and the efficiency of the School.

GOVERNORS TO CONSIDER VIEWS AND PROPOSALS OF
" THE HEAD MASTER.

32.—Before making any regulations under the last foregoing clause the Governors shall consult the Head Master in such a manner as to give him full opportunity for the expression of his views. The Head Master may also from time to time submit proposals to the Governors for making or altering any regulations concerning any matter within the province of the Governors. The Governors shall fully consider any such expression of views or proposals, and shall decide upon them.

JURISDICTION OF HEAD MASTER OVER SCHOOL
ARRANGEMENTS.

33.—Subject to the rules prescribed by or under

the authority of this Scheme, the Head Master shall have under his control the choice of books, the method of teaching, the arrangement of classes and school hours, and generally the whole internal organisation, management, and discipline of the School, including the power of expelling boys from the School or suspending them from attendance thereat for any adequate cause to be judged of by him; Provided that, upon expelling or suspending any boy he shall forthwith report the case to the Governors.

ASSISTANT MASTERS.

34.—The Head Master shall have the sole power of appointing and dismissing all Assistant Masters, and shall determine, subject to the approval of the Governors, in what proportions the sum assigned by the Governors for the maintenance of Assistant Masters, or the other current objects of the School, shall be divided among the various persons and objects for which it is assigned in the aggregate. And the Governors shall pay the same accordingly, either through the hands of the Head Master or directly as they think best.

INCOME OF HEAD MASTER.

35.—The Head Master shall receive a fixed yearly stipend of £100. He shall also be entitled to receive a further or capitation payment calculated on such a scale, uniform or graduated, as may be fixed from time to time by the Governors, at the rate of not less than £2 nor more than £4 a year for each boy attending the School. The amount of this further or capitation payment shall be ascertained and paid to the Head Master by the Governors together with the proper proportion of his fixed stipend, at such convenient intervals or times as the Governors may think fit.

BOARDERS.

36.—The Governors may make such regulations and arrangements as they may think right for the reception of boarders, either in the house of any master, or in a hostel or hostels conducted under the management of the Governors, or, if they think fit, in both of those ways.

PAYMENTS FOR TUITION AND BOARDING.

37.—All boys, including boarders, except as herein-after provided, shall pay tuition fees to be fixed from time to time by the Governors at the rate of not less than £3 nor more than £6 a year for any boy. No difference in respect of these fees shall be made between any scholars on account of place of birth or residence, or of their being or not being boarders. The payments to be required from boarders, exclusive of the tuition fees, shall not exceed the annual rate of £45 for any boy. No extra or additional payment of any kind shall be allowed without the sanction of the Governors and the written consent of the parent, or person occupying the place of parent, of the scholar concerned.

All payments for tuition fees shall be made in advance to the Head Master, or to such other person as the Governors shall from time to time determine, and shall be accounted for by the person receiving them to the Governors, and treated by them as part of the general income of the Foundation.

AGES FOR SCHOOL.

38.—No boy shall be admitted into the School under the age of eight years. No boy shall remain in the School after the age of sixteen years, or if he attains that age during a school term then after the end of such term, except with the permission of the Governors, which in special cases may be given upon the recommendation of the Head Master.

TO WHOM SCHOOL IS OPEN.

39.—Subject to the provisions established by or under the authority of this Scheme, the School and all its advantages shall be open to all boys of good character and sufficient health who are residing with their parents, guardians, or near relations within degrees to be determined by the Governors, or in some boarding-house conducted under regulations made by the Governors. No boy not so residing shall be admitted to the School without the Special permission of the Governors.

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION.

40.—Applications for admission to the School

shall be made to the Head Master, or to some other person appointed by the Governors, according to a form to be approved of by them, and delivered to all applicants.

REGISTER OF APPLICATIONS.

41.—The Head Master or some other person appointed by the Governors shall keep a register of applications for admission, showing the date of every application and of the admission, withdrawal, or rejection of the applicant, and the cause of any rejection, and the age of each applicant.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

42.—Every applicant for admission shall be examined by or under the direction of the Head Master, who shall appoint convenient times for that purpose, and give reasonable notice to the parents or next friends of the boy to be so examined. No boy shall be admitted to the School except after undergoing such examination and being found fit for admission. Those who are so found fit shall, if there is room for them, be admitted in order according to the dates of their application.

The examination for admission shall be graduated according to the age of the boy, and shall be regulated in other particulars from time to time by or under the direction of the Governors, but it shall never for any boy fall below the following standard, that is to say :—

Reading.

Writing from dictation.

Sums in the first four simple rules of Arithmetic, with the Multiplication Table.

SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS FROM RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION AND WORSHIP.

43.—The parent or guardian of, or person liable to maintain or having the actual custody of any day scholar, may claim by notice in writing addressed to the Head Master, the exemption of such scholar from attending prayer or religious worship, or from any lesson or series of lessons on a religious subject, and such scholar shall be exempted accordingly, and a scholar shall not, by reason of any exemption from

attending prayer or religious worship, or from any lesson or series of lessons on a religious subject, be deprived of any advantage or emolument in the School to which he would otherwise have been entitled.

If the parent or guardian of, or person liable to maintain or having the actual custody of, any scholar who is about to attend the School, and who but for this clause could only be admitted as a boarder, desires the exemption of such scholar from attending prayer or religious worship, or from any lesson or series of lessons on a religious subject, but the persons in charge of the boarding houses of the School are not willing to allow such exemption, then it shall be the duty of the Governors to make provisions for enabling the scholar to attend the School, and have such exemption, as a day scholar, without being deprived of any advantage or emolument to which he otherwise would have been entitled.

If any Teacher, in the course of other lessons at which any scholar exempted under this clause is in accordance with the ordinary rules of the School present, shall teach systematically and persistently any particular religious doctrine, from the teaching of which any exemption has been claimed, as in this clause before provided, the Governors shall, on complaint made in writing to them by the parent, guardian, or person liable to maintain or having the actual custody of such scholar, hear the complainant, and inquire into the circumstances, and if the complaint is judged to be reasonable, make all proper provisions for remedying the matter complained of.

INSTRUCTION.

44.—Subject to the foregoing provision, religious instruction in accordance with the principles of the Christian Faith shall be given in the School under such regulations as shall be made from time to time by the Governors. No alteration in any such regulations shall take effect until the expiration of not less than one year after the notice of the making of the alteration shall have been given by the Governors in such manner as they shall think best calculated

to bring the matter within the knowledge of persons interested in the School. Instruction shall also be given in the School in the following subjects :—

Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic.

Geography and History.

English Grammar, Composition, and Literature.

Mathematics.

Latin.

At least one Foreign European Language.

Natural Science.

Drawing and Vocal Music.

Subject to the above provisions, the course of instruction shall proceed according to the classification and arrangements made by the Head Master.

ANNUAL EXAMINATION.

45.—There shall be once in every year an examination of the scholars by an Examiner or Examiners appointed for that purpose by the Governors, and paid by them, but otherwise unconnected with the School. The day of examination shall be fixed by the Governors after consulting with the Head Master. The Examiner or Examiners shall report to the Governors on the proficiency of the scholars and on the condition of the School, as regards instruction and discipline, as shown by the result of the examination. The Governors shall communicate the report to the Head Master.

HEAD MASTER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

46.—The Head Master shall make a report in writing to the Governors annually at such time as they shall direct on the general condition and progress of the School, and on any special occurrences during the year. He may also mention the names of any boys who, in his judgment, are worthy of reward or distinction, having regard both to proficiency and conduct. The Governors may award prizes of books or other suitable rewards as marks of distinction to any such boys.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BOYS FROM PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

47.—Scholarships may be maintained in the School

in the form of exemptions, total or partial, from the payment of tuition fees, and shall be granted for such periods and, subject to the provisions of this Scheme, on such conditions as the Governors think fit. Boys to whom such Scholarships shall be granted shall be called Foundation Scholars. These Scholarships may be awarded in favour of candidates for admission to the School, on the result of the examination for admission, and in favour of boys already attending the School, upon the reports of the Examiners made on the result of the annual examination, but no such Scholarship shall be granted to any such last-mentioned boy unless the Head Master shall report that he is deserving of it by reason of his character and good conduct. As to not less than one-half of such Scholarships preference shall be given to boys who have been educated for at least three years at some Public Elementary School in the school district of Usk. No Scholarship under this clause shall be granted so as to extend the number to more than ten per cent. of the boys actually attending the School.

EXHIBITIONS.

48.—Subject to such reasonable regulations, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Scheme, as the Governors may from time to time prescribe, the Governors may, if the income is sufficient, establish Exhibitions tenable at any place of higher education approved by them, and to be awarded to boys who are being and have for not less than three years been educated at the School.

CONDITIONS AS TO SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS.

49.—Every Scholarship and Exhibition established under this Scheme shall be given as the reward of merit, and shall within the limits aforesaid be freely and openly competed for, and shall be tenable only for the purposes of education. If the holder shall, in the judgment of the Governors, be guilty of serious misconduct or idleness, or fail to maintain a reasonable standard of proficiency, or wilfully cease to pursue his education, the Governors may at once determine the Scholarship or Exhibition, and for

this purpose, in the case of an Exhibition held away from the School, may act on the report of the proper authorities of the School or place of education at which the Exhibition is held, or on such other evidence as the Governors think sufficient. For the purposes of this clause the decision of the Governors shall be final in every case.

APPLICATION OF INCOME.

REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND.

50.—As soon as the state of the funds of the Foundation will admit, the Governors shall transfer the sum of £333 6s. 8d. Government Stock into the name of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, and shall place the same in their books to a separate account, entitled “Repairs and Improvements Fund.” The income of such Fund shall be paid to the Governors, and applied by them in ordinary repairs or improvements of property used for the purposes of the School, and if not wanted for that purpose shall be accumulated for the like purpose in any future year or years. Until the Repairs and Improvements Fund is provided, the Governors shall treat the sum of £10 a year as applicable to the same purposes as the income of the Repairs and Improvements Fund.

OTHER EXPENSES.

51.—The income of the Foundation, after payment of the expenses of management of property and business, and of any ordinary repairs or improvements which the income of the Repairs and Improvements Fund, or the yearly sum payable in lieu thereof, may be insufficient to answer, and any other necessary or proper outgoings, and subject to the provisions herein-before contained as to the said three-tenth parts hitherto applicable under clause 12 of the said Scheme of the 7th day of November, 1862, shall be applied by the Governors in paying the Head Master, and in making the several payments herein-before directed or authorised for the purposes of the School.

PENSIONS.

52.—The Governors may, if they think fit and the

income at their disposal suffice for the purpose, agree with the Head Master for the formation of a fund in the nature of a Pension or Superannuation Fund, the main principles of such agreement being that the Head Master and the Governors respectively shall contribute annually for a period of twenty years such sums as may be fixed on; that these contributions shall accumulate at compound interest; that in case the Head Master serves his office for twenty years he shall on his retirement be entitled to the whole accumulated fund; that in case he retires earlier on account of permanent disability from illness he shall also be entitled to the whole of the same fund; that in all other cases he shall, on his ceasing to be Master, be entitled to the amount produced by his own contributions. If any question shall arise upon the construction or working of this provision, the same shall be referred by the Governors to the Charity Commissioners, whose decision thereon shall be final and conclusive.

RESIDUE. UNAPPLIED SURPLUS.

53.—The residue of income of the Foundation, if any, may be applied in improving the accommodation or convenience of the school buildings or premises, or generally in extending or otherwise promoting the objects and efficiency of the School. Whatever shall not be so applied shall, on passing the yearly accounts, be treated as Unapplied Surplus, and shall be deposited in a bank for the account for the Governors, to the intent that the same, so soon as it shall amount to a suitable sum, shall be invested in the name of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds in trust for the Foundation in augmentation of its general endowment.

GENERAL.

FURTHER ENDOWMENTS.

54.—The Governors may receive any additional donations or endowments for the general purposes of the Foundation. They may also receive donations or endowments for any special objects connected with the Foundation, which shall not be inconsistent with or calculated to impede the due working of the pro-

visions of this Scheme. Any question arising upon this last point shall be referred to the Charity Commissioners for decision.

GENERAL POWER OF GOVERNORS TO MAKE REGULATIONS.

55.—Within the limits prescribed by this Scheme the Governors shall have full power from time to time to make regulations for the conduct of their business and for the management of the Foundation, and such regulations shall be binding on all persons affected thereby.

QUESTION OF PROCEEDINGS UNDER SCHEME.

56.—Any question affecting the regularity or the validity of any proceeding under this Scheme shall be determined conclusively by the Charity Commissioners upon such application made to them for the purpose, as they think sufficient.

CONSTRUCTION OF SCHEME.

57.—If any doubt or question arises among the Governors as to the proper construction or application of any of the provisions of this Scheme, the Governors shall apply to the Charity Commissioners for their opinion and advice thereon, which opinion and advice when given shall be binding on the Governors and all persons claiming under the Trust who shall be affected by the question so decided.

JURISDICTION OF ORDINARY ABOLISHED.

58.—From the date of this Scheme all jurisdiction of the Ordinary relating to or arising from the licensing of any Master in the School shall be abolished.

CHARITY COMMISSIONERS TO MAKE NEW SCHEMES.

59.—The Charity Commissioners may from time to time, in the exercise of their ordinary jurisdiction, frame Schemes for the alteration of any portions of this Scheme, provided that such Schemes be not inconsistent with anything contained in the Endowed Schools' Acts, 1869, 1873, and 1874.

FOUNDATION TO BE GOVERNED EXCLUSIVELY BY
THIS SCHEME.

60.—From and after the date of this Scheme the Foundation shall for every purpose, except as herein provided, be administered and governed wholly and

exclusively in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme, notwithstanding any former or other Scheme, Act of Parliament, Charter or Letters Patent, statute, or instrument relating to the subject matter of this Scheme.

SCHEME TO BE PRINTED AND SOLD.

61.—The Governors shall cause this Scheme to be printed, and a copy to be given to every Governor, Master, and Assistant-Master upon their respective appointments, and copies may be sold at a reasonable price to all persons applying for the same.

DATE OF SCHEME.

The date of this Scheme shall be the day on which Her Majesty by Order in Council declares Her approbation of it.

The present Governors are :—

ELECTED BY TRUSTEES.

Mr. JAMES HENRY CLARK, December 19, 1879.

Rev. S. C. BAKER, re-elected February 17, 1886.

W. B. GETHING, Esq., re-elected February 17, 1886.

THOMAS WATKINS, Esq., re-elected February 17, 1886.

A. J. SHEPARD, Esq., re-elected February 17, 1886.

ELECTED BY LOCAL BOARD.

Mr. SIDNEY SMITH, re-elected October 1, 1884.

Mr. SIDNEY A. HILEY, elected July 5, 1882.

Mr. H. C. GRIFFIN, elected February 8, 1882.

Mr. JAMES JONES, re-elected October 1, 1884.



SCHEDULE.

NO.	DESCRIPTION.	SITUATION OF PROPERTY.	A. R. P.
1	Grammar School } House & Garden }	Usk	
2	House and Garden ad- joining Infant School }	Usk	
3	Prescoed Farm.....	Llanbadoc	93 3 12
4	Skibbor Newydd.....	Raglan	41 1 21
5	Pandy Farm.....	Goytre	70 2 3
6	Lands	Shirenewton.....	9 2 33
7	Garden	Ditto	0 0 27
8	Common Enclosure....	Ditto	2 3 2
9	Pandy Wood	Goytre	49 0 12
10	Pandy Little Wood ..	Ditto	4 3 7
11	Sober Lease Wood	Shirenewton.....	5 0 28
12	Prescoed Wood	Llanbadoc	7 3 39
Total.....A.			285 1 42

The foregoing is an epitome of the application of funds, the adoption of new schemes, and the appointment of Governors of the Grammar School Foundation under the scheme of November 27, 1878, which is at present (1887) acted upon.

It may, however, be interesting to the parties concerned, to have a more detailed account of the Charity, and be put in possession of the various changes and vicissitudes which have attended the Charity for a long series of years, and to effect which the following records are given.

Roger Edwards' Will.

In the year 1621 Mr Roger Edwards made a settlement of his property, and by deed of conveyance between himself of the first part; Walter Rumsey, John Rumsey, Richard Morgan, and Edward Rumsey of the second part; and John Saunders, Walter Powell, and John Williams of the third part; limited the same upon the several trusts following, namely:—He conveyed an annuity of £10 issuing out of certain lands and tenements situate in the parish of Llanbaddock (Priscoed Farm, 10a. Or. 3lp.), together with certain lands situate in the parish of Ragland (Skybor Newydd, 45a. 1r. 3lp.), then let at the yearly rent of £10, to the use of himself for life, and after his decease TO the said Trustees, in fee upon trust, to dispose and employ the said annuity and yearly rent of £10 for ever, for and towards the maintaining and finding a FREE SCHOOL in the town of Usk, and for a sufficient learned schoolmaster for the education and teaching of the children in the said school, with a power from time to time to displace such schoolmaster as should be thought meet.

And the said Roger Edwards did also convey unto the said trustees, a recently-erected Dwelling House in the parish of Llangeview, and also sundry freehold farms and lands in the several parishes of Llangeview, Llangwm Ycha, Gwernesney, Wolvesnewton, Caldicot, Llantrissent, and Llangwm Ycha, and elsewhere, in the County of Monmouth, and likewise surrendered a copyhold farm situate in the parish of Llangwm Ycha, and held of the manor of Usk, the last mentioned farm being then of the annual value of £6 13s 4d,* upon trust after Mr Edwards' decease, to divide the said yearly rent of £6 13s 4d for ever amongst the POOR of the several parishes of Llangwm Ycha, Llangeview, and Gwernesney, in the following proportions; £3 yearly to the poor of Llangwm Ycha, the like sum of £3 yearly to the poor of Llangeview, and 13s 4d, the residue thereof to the poor of Gwernesney, and to be paid on Michaelmas Day and St.

* These properties were:—Tyr-y-ferm and coppice, 84a. 1r. 24p.; Altavilla farm, 111a. Or. 20p.; Keven Buchan farm, 88a. 1r. 22p.; Tyrlay farm and land, 39a. 2r. 12p.; Tyn Cevan farm, 19a. 2r. 1p.; Ty Bach-y-lan, 10a. 1r. 34p.; Cae Tumpin land, 7a. 1r. 33p.; farm and land, 21a. 3r. 37p.; sundry lands, 13a. 3r. 8p.; house and lands, 8a. Or. 31p.; barn and lands, 95a. 1r. 10p.; sundry closes, 5a. 2r. 16p.

Phillips, or within fifteen days after either of the said feasts, at the discretion of the Parson, Curate, Vicar, or Churchwarden of the said parishes respectively for the time being; and the Trustees were directed to apply and dispose of all the rents and profits of the said freehold estates, and the residue of the rents and profits of the copyhold property, upon the following trusts, namely:—from time to time to repair the house in Llangeview,† which the said Roger Edwards had purchased for the habitation of twelve poor aged, blind, or impotent persons successively for ever, to be chosen out of the several parishes of Llangwm Ycha, Llangeview and Gwernesney, among those who had resided in some or one of those parishes at least three years next before the election; and if that number could not be had within the said parishes, then so many to be chosen out of some other parish or parishes next adjoining the said three parishes, of the like poverty or impotency, as should make up the same number; and also to provide and disburse the yearly sum of £5 a piece to be paid quarterly for ever to each of the said poor aged, blind, or impotent persons at Christmas, Ladyday, Midsummer and Michaelmas, by equal portions; and also to give 40s. per annum to some Vicar, Curate or other sufficient Churchman, who should read divine service in the said house to the said poor persons two mornings in the week for ever, by the appointment of the said Trustees.

AND it was agreed that when the Trustees should be reduced to four, the survivors should within a convenient time convey and assign all the freehold property to the use of such survivors, and six, five or four other persons, being of the most sufficient and discreet inhabitants of the said parishes of Usk, Llangwm, Llangeview, and Gwernesney, or one of them. And the Trustees were empowered to choose the said aged persons, and to displace them, and to make such acts for their government as by the majority of the trustees should be thought convenient. AND IT WAS DIRECTED, that if any of the said poor people should be chosen out of any parish other than the said parish of Llangeview, two sufficient freeholders of such parish should enter into a bond in £20, to receive them back again, if turned out for misbehaviour. And the trustees were prohibited from letting the property for any longer term than twenty-one years, and were empowered to take yearly for ever out of the rents and profits 40s over and above so much as should go for the maintenance of the said poor people, to be expended in a dinner for ever.

18th January, 1622.—The said Roger Edwards by his will of this date confirmed the said Charity, and bequeathed to his executor MR. WALTER RUMSEY, the sum of £450, to purchase land of the yearly value of £30, to be conveyed to the said trustees and their heirs, upon trust, to dispose thereof as follows, viz.: £20 equally between four poor shopkeepers and tradesmen dwelling within the town of Usk, by the direction of the vicar, curate, and aldermen of the said town, upon the days of Trinity Monday and the Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist annually; and £10 the residue thereof annually among the poor people of the said town of Usk, by four equal quarterly payments of 50s each, at Christmas, Ladyday, Midsummer and Michaelmas.

† Coedcwnnwr Almshouse.

5th February, 21 James I.—Mr Roger Edwards by a CODICIL to his will of this date, gave unto the said twelve poor people the sum of £5 yearly out of his lands and tenements towards providing twelve friezed gowns for them annually.

He also directed that instead of 13s. 4d., there should be paid to the poor of Gwernesney annually 10s. only.

He also gave his heuse and garden with the appurtenance^s situate in the said town of Usk, to his said trustees, to be used and employed only for the habitation of such schoolmaster, as should from time to time have the charge of teaching the youth belonging to the Free School, which he had set up within the said town of Usk, without rent.

The Testator also revoked the trusts in his will declared of the sum of £30, to be derived annually from the lands to be purchased with the sum of £450, *and instead thereof* directed, that such £30 should be applied as follows:—£10 to be added to the £20 appointed by his will towards the maintenance of the teacher of the Free School; £10 to be distributed yearly among the poor of the said town; and of the remaining £10 he directed £5 to be annually paid to such poor scholar as should be ready to depart from the said Free School, and fit to go to study at the University of Oxford, to help him for his admittance and charges thither.

And the Testator finally bequeathed £40 for the procuring an Act of Parliament to confirm the said charitable gifts.

28th March, 1624.—Mr Roger Edwards DIED on this day having made another codicil, but without altering his will and former codicils as to the said charity.

RECORDS OF THE CHARITY.

Shortly after the death of Mr Edwards, his executor, Mr. WALTER RUMSEY, in consideration of the said sum of £450 so directed to be laid out, sold and conveyed to the said other trustees, JOHN RUMSEY, RICHARD MORGAN, EDWARD RUMSEY, JOHN SAUNDERS, WALTER POWELL, and JOHN WILLIAMS, certain lands and tenements situate in the parish of Llanbaddock, and also fourteen acres of land lying in Shirenewton,* of the clear yearly value together of £16, and certain other lands in the parish of Llanover, of the clear yearly value of £24 and upwards,† and there being deducted from the £16 a rent of £10 per annum chargeable thereon and formerly granted to the said Roger Edwards (and by him directed to be applied for part of the maintenance of the said Schoolmaster) the residue thereof with the said sum of £24, made up the £30 per annum, directed to be purchased with the sum of £450.

8th May, 8 Charles I.—BY DEED of this date, the said WALTER RUMSEY, JOHN RUMSEY, RICHARD MORGAN, and JOHN WILLIAMS, being then the four surviving feoffees, did convey and surrender upon the trusts aforesaid, all the said freehold and copyhold messuages, lands, and hereditaments to HENRY RUMSEY,

* Sundry closes of land, 14a. 3r. 21p.

† House and sundry closes, 20a. 2r. 22p.

EDWARD RUMSEY, WALTER RUMSEY THE YOUNGER, THOMAS MORGAN and EDWARD MORGAN THE YOUNGER, and their heirs.

For some years after this there is not any particular account extant of the proceedings of the trustees, but it appears that in consequence of sundry abuses having been committed in relation to the Charity, a Commission was issued under the Great Seal, directed to certain Commissioners to inquire therein, and by virtue thereof an inquisition was taken on 17th March, 1663. The Commissioners decreed that the feoffees named in such Commission had abused their trust, and that they should all be discharged from further acting therein; and the Commissioners further decreed, that the said HENRY RUMSEY THE YOUNGER, should make a feoffment of all the freehold, and duly surrender all the copyhold property to SIR TREVOR WILLIAMS, BART., EDWARD WILLIAMS, ESQUIRE, THOMAS HERBERT, MATTHEW POWELL, JOHN RUMSEY, EDWARD WILLIAMS, and GEORGE HARRIS, being inhabitants of the parishes out of which the feoffees according to the appointment of the donor were to be chosen, IN TRUST, for the purposes of the Charity; and in case the said Henry Rumsey the younger refused to make such conveyance and surrender, the Commissioners ordered such new trustees to put all the trusts in execution, and receive the rents of the property as if the conveyance had been duly executed, and the decree then proceeded to point out the duties of the trustees, and which were in conformity with those originally prescribed by Mr Roger Edwards.

It does not appear that Mr Henry Rumsey ever made any conveyance or surrender to the new trustees, but the latter entered upon the trust estates, and applied the rents and profits to the several charitable purposes directed by Roger Edwards' deed, will, and codicil, and the said decree.

This continued for a series of years, but at length all those trustees died without having, as far as it can be ascertained, appointed others in their stead, at least the succession was not kept up, for in the year 1769, and for several years previous, there was no trustee in existence, and the Trust was in consequence so wholly neglected, and the rents became so much in arrear, that it was considered necessary to exhibit an information in the Court of Chancery, in the name of the Attorney-General, with a view to get new trustees appointed and save the property from dilapidation and ruin. This was done at the relation of two gentlemen of Usk, named Rogers and Davies, and by a Decree made in the suit of 17th January, 1772, HENRY ROGERS, THOMAS LEWIS, RICHARD VAUGHAN NORMAN (clerk), DAVID JONES, RICE DAVIES, and ROBERT KINSEY were appointed Trustees of the said Charity Estates, and the tenants directed to pay them the rent in arrear and growing rents, and those gentlemen accordingly took upon themselves the execution of the trusts, and acted therein until their respective deaths.

During this period the Charity Estates having produced advanced rents, and more than sufficient to answer the payments directed by the original Trust, the Trustees increased the number of pensioners from twelve to fourteen, with the same annual payment to each of them, and at the same periods as before proscribed. They also caused a Writing School to be established, for the teaching of writing and arithmetic to twenty-five boys of the same description as those entitled to be admitted into the Grammar School, with a salary to the master of £35 per annum, which Writing School was found to

be a great service and advantage to the neighbourhood, and of more utility than the Grammar School, as the full number of twenty-five boys was always kept up at the Writing School, whilst in the Grammar School there were often not more than five or six boys.

25th March, 1789.—BY DEED of this date, the said RICHARD VAUGHAN NORMAN, DAVID JONES, ROBERT KINSEY, and RICK DAVIES, being the four then surviving trustees of the said charity, appointed THOMAS ADDAMS WILLIAMS, PHILIP JONES and JOHN WATKINS, new trustees, in the stead of Henry Rogers, Thomas Lewis, and Richard Jones, who had severally departed this life.

2nd September, 1791.—By DEED of this date, EDMUND WATKINS, THOMAS JONES, PHILIP REECE, THOMAS PROTHERO, and THOMAS DAVIES, were appointed Trustees of the said Charity, in the stead of Rico Davies and Robert Kinsey, who had severally departed this life, and Thomas Addams Williams, who had removed to the parish of Llanbaddeock, and declined acting in the Trust.

15th November, 1808.—BY DEED of this date, THOMAS JONES, JOHN WATKINS, and THOMAS PROTHERO, the then three only surviving trustees, appointed four new trustees, viz., ALEXANDER JONES, ILTYD NICHOLL, JOHN OLIVE, and THOMAS HUGHES, in the stead of Richard Vaughan Norman, David Jones, Philip Jones, Philip Reece, Edmund Watkins and Thomas Davies, all deceased.

These new trustees reduced the pensioners at the Almshouse to the original number of twelve, but increased the allowance to each from £5 to £8, conceiving that it was more consistent with the intention of the donor to increase the pensions, than the number of the pensioners, *and notwithstanding such increased payments, and the additional expense attendant on the establishment of the Writing School, the funds were found more than adequate to meet the trusts of the Charity and such new purposes*, and from the sale of timber and wood and advanced rent, the trustees found themselves possessed of a surplus of £916 5s 5d, which was laid out in the purchase of £1,300 three per cent consols, and in the year 1811, the same was standing in the names of the said Thomas Jones, John Watkins, Thomas Prothero and Alexander Jones, in the books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England.

At this time the Almshouses appropriated for the residence of the pensioners became much out of repair, and it was the opinion of some of the trustees, that it would be more advisable wholly to rebuild than repair the same, in which, however, the other trustees did not coincide, and some of them were, moreover, disinclined to act in the execution of the Trusts of the Charity, by reason of the deviation which had been made by the former trustees from the strict directions of the Will of the Founder, conceiving that they had no power to do so without the direction of the Court of Chancery.

In consequence of this, it was thought expedient to exhibit a supplemental information in the Court of Chancery in the name of the Attorney-General, for the purpose of having the sanction of the Lord Chancellor to the alterations which had been made, and were then meditated in regard to the Charity, and accordingly such information was filed in the year 1811, at the relation or instance of the said John Watkins, Thomas Prothero and Alexander Jones, *against* Iltyd Nicholl, John Olive and Thomas Hughes, the other trustees; and it prayed that the establishment of the Writing School might be confirmed by a decree of the Court, and directed to be continued

with such salary to the master thereof for the time being, as had theretofore been paid to him, or such other salary as the Court of Chancery should think proper; that the Relators might be at liberty with the approbation of one of the Masters of the Court, to take down and re-build the Almshouse, and that the expense thereof might be paid out of the said £1,300, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent. consols, and that the relators might also be at liberty to lay before the master, a plan or proposal how the surplus of the said fund after such payments as aforesaid, and likewise the surplus of the annual rents and profits of the said Charity Estate, after answering the several payments directed by the Testator's will, and of the salary to the Writing Master, should be applied and appropriated.

29th November, 1811.—To this information the defendant^s answered, and the cause came on to be heard before the Master of the Rolls, who by a decree of this date, ordered that Mr John Olive (who desired to be discharged from acting in the Trusts) should be discharged accordingly, and that it should be referred to Master Cox, to appoint one or more proper person or persons to be a new trustee or trustees of the said charity estates and premises, in the room and stead of the said defendant, John Olive; and it was ordered that the defendants, Iltyd Nicholl and Thomas Hughes, and the several other remaining trustees, should convey and assign the said Trust estates and premises, so as to vest the same in themselves and in such new trustee or trustees so to be appointed by the said master, such conveyance and assignment to be approved of by the said master: AND IT WAS ORDERED, that the said master should approve of a proper scheme for the future management and regulation of the said Charity, and for the application of the funds belonging thereto; and the trustees were to be at liberty to lay proposals before the master for that purpose, and in the meantime it was ordered, that the master should inquire and state to the Court, whether it would be (according to the nature of the said charity) for the benefit of the several persons interested therein, that the Almshouses should be pulled down and re-built, or what would in his opinion be most advisable to be done in respect thereof. And it was ordered, that the Relators should transfer the £1,300 in the funds into the name of the Accountant General of the Court, IN TRUST in the cause.

No further proceedings appear to have been taken in the suit, nor the decree to have been otherwise acted upon, than by the appointment of three new trustees in the stead of Thomas Jones, deceased, and John Olive, resigned, and the execution of a Deed of Conveyance, dated 9th June, 1813 (settled and approved of by the master), whereby JOHN WATKINS, THOMAS PROTHERO, ALEXANDER JONES, ILTYD NICHOLL, and THOMAS HUGHES, the five then continuing trustees, conveyed all the Charity Estates, so as to vest the same in themselves and THOMAS WILLIAMS, RICHARD GEORGE and EDWARD BURY, the three new trustees appointed.

The Rev. James Barnard Davies, a late scholar of the Free Grammar School, having been admitted into the University of Oxford, applied for the allowance of £5 towards the expenses he had incurred, which was paid to him. This annual bequest of £5 to any poor scholar going to the University of Oxford had not been paid or applied for, except on that occasion, within the memory of the oldest trustee of this date.

December 27th, 1811.—Mr Andrew Gordon resigned the situation of Master of the Writing School, which he had held for upwards of thirteen years, in consequence of declining health.

June 5th, 1816.—In consideration of the great reduction in the value of agricultural produce, the trustees ordered their agent to make an allowance of twenty per cent to thirteen of their tenants, and to continue the same allowance until further orders.

On the 20th of May, John Bowen Havard was dismissed for inattention to his duties and improper conduct, and John George the younger, of the town of Usk, was appointed Writing Master in his stead, at the same salary of £70 per annum; and it was ordered, that no entrance money be demanded or received in future by the said master.

4th July, 1821.—BY DEED of this date, Mr Hughes was discharged from being a trustee at his own request, and the said Thomas Prothero and Edward Bury being then dead, two new trustees, namely, WILLIAM ADDAMS WILLIAMS, THE YOUNGER, ESQUIRE, and BENJAMIN JONES, CLERK, were appointed in their stead, and the Charity Estates again conveyed, so as to vest the same in the continuing and new trustees.

May 29th, 1822.—The whole of the rent of Tyrlay farm being bequeathed in certain proportions to the poor of Llangwm Ucha, Llangview and Gwernesney, the trustees decided that the whole amount of the increased rent, after deducting incidental expenses, should be applied to that purpose, preserving the proportions specified in the will.

In addition to the £5 Gown money to the pensioners, a further sum of £7 was allowed for clothes.

The characters on the tomb of Roger Edwards being so defaced as to be illegible, and the tomb much dilapidated, and there being a considerable balance in the hands of the treasurer, the trustees caused a tablet or monument to be erected in Usk Church, with an inscription containing the bequests to the Charity, and the directions in the will relating thereto; and for the old tomb in the churchyard, a new one, surrounded by iron railings, was substituted.

31st July, 1822.—By DEED of this date HENRY POCOCK, ESQUIRE, and JAMES BARNARD DAVIES, CLERK, were appointed additional trustees of the Charity, and the property vested in them jointly with the former trustees.

The decree on the supplemental information had not yet been further acted on, but the trustees continued the Writing School with an advanced salary to the master of £70, there being on an average forty boys instructed therein, under the superintendence of Mr John George, the master, and the school was considered of great utility and advantage. The trustees temporarily repaired the Almshouses, and the number of pensioners was always full, there being no difficulty in finding deserving objects in the parishes particularly named by the donor, as those from which the pensioners were to be selected, to fill the vacancies that may occur.

According to the wish of Roger Edwards, prayers were read at the Almshouse twice a week by the Rev. Lewis Williams, the officiating minister of Llangview, whose remuneration of 40s per annum directed by the donor, the trustees took upon themselves to increase to £10, the former being obviously inadequate (according to the low price of money at that time) to the trouble of such duty.

The trustees also increased the salary of the Rev. John Saunders who had been master of the Grammar School for forty years, from £20 to £45 per annum, considering the former inadequate, although the number of boys educated in that school was not great. The master resided in a house with large garden, probably worth £30 per annum, rent free,

November 15th, 1824.—The sum of £20 was given towards the making of a new line of road, leading from Llanllowell to Coedcwnnwr Almshouses and other estates belonging to the Charity.

May 25th, 1825.—A further sum of £5 given towards the road to the Almshouse.

In consideration of the improvement in the value of agricultural produce, the rents of most of the farms were raised.

August 22nd, 1825.—Messrs Jones and Waddington laid a communication before the trustees, stating that the master had reported in favor of taking down the old Almshouse at Coedcwnnwr and re-building the same. As the season of the year for building was so far advanced, it was decided to postpone the further consideration of the subject until the annual meeting in November, and the agent was requested in the meantime to procure from Mr Haycock, working plans and any necessary information that may be required for the re-building of the Almshouse and advertise for contractors in the Gloucester and Bristol Journals.

November 11th, 1825 —A contract was entered into with John Arthur and William Davies, masons, Usk, who undertook to erect the twelve Almshouses at Coedcwnnwr for the sum of £940

May 17th, 1826 —Messrs Jones and Waddington, Solicitors to the Trustees, were requested to take immediate steps to sell out £1,300, the amount of stock in the three per cent. consols, standing in the names of Messrs Alexander Jones, John Watkins, and the late Thomas Jones and Thomas Prothero, and to receive the half-year's dividends due the 5th January last.

November 8th, 1826.—The Rev. John Saunders resigned the situation of Master of the Grammar School and the Rev. Thomas Williams was appointed to the office on the 22nd of November, at the same salary; and it was ordered by the trustees, that the future hours for the master's attendance on the boys, should be from seven o'clock to half-past eight, and from nine to eleven in the forenoon; and from one to half-past two in the afternoon.

January 4th, 1828.—Mr George Holmes was appointed to succeed the late Mr John George, as master of the Writing School.

January 17th, 1828 —The trustees conveyed the Mardy Estate, in the parish of Llanover, valued at the sum of £2,008 7s, together with the sum of £200, to Benjamin Hall, Esq., in exchange for the Pandy Estate, in the parish of Goytre, valued at £2,752 7s, by which exchange a balance of £544 was gained by the trustees.

November 14th, 1828.—The number of boys to be educated in the Grammar School was limited to twenty, and in the Writing School to forty, to be elected from the several parishes of Usk, Llangview, Gwernesney and Llangwm, and in the absence of candidates from those parishes to be elected from neighbouring parishes.

The sum of £15 was added to the salary of the master of the Grammar School

March 3rd, 1830.—The Rev. J. Griffiths, B.A., was appointed master of the Grammar School, in the place of the Rev. Thomas Williams who had sent in his resignation.

March 10th, 1830. — Mr Thomas Williams, of the Rhadyr, was appointed to perform the duties of Writing Master for the next three months, in the place of George Holmes, who had been suspended for that period for ill-treatment to the children and other irregularities in his conduct.

June 2nd, 1830.—George Holmes was re-instated in the situation of Writing Master until the Christmas vacation, in the hope that he would during that period conduct himself in a manner satisfactory to the trustees of the Charity.

January 12th, 1831.—The Trustee ordered that six bags of coal per annum be supplied to each pensioner, including the current year.

May 25th, 1831.—George Holmes, the Writing Master, was dismissed, being considered by the trustees unfit to be intrusted with the Writing School.

The Rev. John Fowell Jones, Rector of Gwernesney, and Thomas Reece, Esq., of Usk, were appointed trustees in the room of Mr Richard George and the Rev. Benjamin Jones, deceased.

June 16th, 1831.—Mr Sidney Stone was appointed Writing Master, at the salary heretofore paid.

July 25th, 1832.—It having been represented that the hours of attendance at the Grammar School were found inconvenient, it was resolved, that in future the hours should be from Nine to Twelve, and from Two to Four, with liberty to Mr Griffiths to give one half-holiday in the week, and that he do enforce a strict attendance of the boys during school hours.

November 14th, 1832.—The Rev. Thomas Williams, of the Rhadyr, was appointed master of the Grammar School, the Rev. Thomas Griffiths having resigned.

January 22nd, 1833.—The parents of children in the Grammar School having represented to the trustees, that they placed their children in the said school in consequence of a resolution at a meeting held on the 16th of May last, by which the master was required to give instruction in English, writing and arithmetic, and that unless that plan was continued they would be under the necessity of removing them from the school, as the education given was not at all suited to the stations in life they were intended for. The master was, therefore, requested to continue for the present to give the general instruction according to the said resolution, until the arrival of the Commissioners for Investigating Public Charities.

March 14th, 1833.—The Rev. Mr. Darvel (formerly Stone), having represented to the trustees that the boys under his care in the Writing School were from poverty unable to find themselves with pens, the sum of £3 was ordered to be allowed towards finding the same.

May 29th, 1833.—Mr John Davies, surgeon, was appointed to visit the pensioners at a salary of £5 per annum.

June 18th, 1835.—It having been brought under the notice of the trustees, that the annual expenditure considerably exceeded the annual income, and that the sum of £200 and upwards was due to their agent, they this day assembled to examine the different items of annual expenditure, and resolved

to make the following abatements in the annual outgoings:—

	£	s.	d.
The Grammar Master's salary to be reduced ..	10	0	0
The Writing Master ditto ..	10	0	0
The allowance for making fires ..	0	10	6
The Pensioners be reduced annually ..	8	18	0
The Gown Money be reduced ..	3	0	0
The Clergyman's salary be reduced ..	2	2	0
The Annual Donation to Usk poor reduced ..	10	0	0
The other parishes be reduced ..	10	0	0
The Allowance of Coals to School reduced ..	1	14	0
The Allowance for Pens and Ink reduced ..	2	0	0
The Annual Dinner Bill reduced ..	6	4	0
The Annual Survey discontinued ..	4	4	0
	<hr/>		
	£68	12	6

February 8th, 1836.—The Rev. James Ashe Gabb was elected trustee to supply the vacancy occasioned by the demise of John Watkins, Esq.

September 14th, 1836.—The Rev. John Philip Reece Shepard was appointed master of the Grammar School, in the room of the Rev. Thomas Williams, who had resigned the situation on his appointment to the living of Langstone.

July 12th, 1837.—The reduction in the pensioners' annual pay amounting to £8 18s, and that in the gown money amounting to £3, and the reduction of £2 2s in the clergyman's salary, was ordered to be restored to them respectively from and after the ensuing Christmas.

December 29th, 1837.—Mr Darvell tendered his resignation as master of the Writing School, and experience having proved that a separate Grammar School had become almost useless, and chiefly resorted to as the means of obtaining instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic, it was decided to unite the Grammar and Writing Schools, and place them under the care of one master. The Rev. J. P. R. Shepard was appointed master, at a salary of £120 per annum, with the house and garden in Middle Street, rent free, and out of such salary he was to provide and pay an usher or assistant.

July 21st, 1838.—The finances having improved, the allowances to the poor inhabitants of Usk and the other parishes were restored the annual sum of £20.

June 4th, 1841.—The agent reported that oak and other timber belonging to the Charity to the amount of £1,035 had been recently disposed of, and the balance in hand exclusive of that sum amounted to £471 11s 5d.

August 18th, 1841.—The Rev. John Fleming, Vicar of Llangwn, was elected trustee, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr Pocock.

November 10th, 1841.—Repairs at Tyrlay, Priscoed, and other farms to the amount of £355 were ordered.

May 17th, 1843.—The Building Committee reported that £520 15s 4d had been expended in carrying out the repairs as before stated and building a house at the Pandy, and further repairs to the amount of £247 were ordered.

May 22nd, 1843.—The Rev. William Evans, Vicar of Usk, was appointed trustee.

May 29th, 1843.—A new school house was ordered to be erected according to a plan and estimate by Mr Daniel at a cost of £477. With the view of extending the benefit of the Free School by affording elementary instruction on the plan of the National Schools, in addition to the present system of tuition, all the male children within the parishes interested in the Charity, were ordered to be admissible at five years of age.

August 24th, 1843.—The union of the Grammar and Writing Schools under one master, having been found from experience not to answer the expectation of the trustees, and it being deemed a matter of the greatest importance to combine the elementary education of the children with the higher branches of education contemplated by the present constitution of the school, it was decided that the school should be brought back to its former and long-established constitution of a Grammar and Writing School in separate schools, with the following alterations:—that the Grammar Master should have the tuition of not exceeding thirty boys, and if required they should be instructed in writing, arithmetic, geography, and the classics, and the master should be allowed to take private pupils, and if a clergyman also to be appointed chaplain to the Almsbouse. The Writing Master to instruct in reading, writing, and the elements of arithmetic, as many of the children of the privileged parishes, as the trustees should at any time direct, in the school room lately used as a National School. The Rev. J. P. R. Shepard continued master of the Grammar School, and on the 8th of November Mr William Whitmore was appointed master of the Writing School.

June 14th, 1845.—The sum of £10 was contributed toward re-building and enlarging Goytre Church, on behalf of the Pandy Farm, in that parish.

September 10th, 1845.—The sum of £57 0s. 10d was paid over to Usk Church Building Committee, on account of expenses incurred in the repairs and alterations of the Vestry Room, occasioned by the pulling down and removal of the Free School from the churchyard.

June 9th, 1847.—The Rev. John Irving, of Llantrissant, and the Rev. James Blower, of Gwernesney, were elected trustees, to fill the vacancies occasioned by the deaths of the Rev. James Ashe Gabb and the Rev. James Barnard Davies.

August 16th, 1847.—Mr William Davis, appointed agent. The salary to the master of the Grammar School was increased from £50 to £60, per annum, together with the house and garden rent free. The number of free scholars was limited to 25, who were to be instructed in the classics, and in English and commercial education, including writing. The master allowed to take private pupils, and if a clergyman to be chaplain to the Almsbouses, with a salary of ten guineas per annum.

September 28th, 1847.—The Rev. John Philip Reece Shepard having resigned, the Rev. John Farrand was appointed master of the Grammar School.

March 7th, 1848.—A donation of £5 was given in aid of the proposed new National School at Goytre.

March 22nd, 1848.—The trustees having at a former meeting decided that fifteen boys only should be admitted *free*, and ten on payment of a capitation fee of one guinea per quarter, a memorial numerously signed by the inhabitants of Usk, was transmitted to the said trustees, in which memorial the inhabitants expressed their dissatisfaction to the alteration, and considered the distinction made with regard to the payment for a portion of the scholars, would be attended with injurious effects towards that portion admitted free, and the inhabitants further stated it to be their opinion, that if the income arising from the increased rents of the Trust were properly applied, there would be ample funds for paying the master as heretofore without levying a charge on any of the scholars; but should the funds be found inadequate for the payment of a competent master, the memorialist preferred submitting to a smaller sum being charged equally upon all the scholars admitted into the Grammar School.

The trustees took the memorial into their consideration and decided that the whole of the twenty-five foundation scholars should henceforth pay a capitation fee of 10s. per quarter; that all scholars not on the foundation, but belonging to the privileged parishes pay £1 per quarter, and that all other scholars be regarded as private pupils.

January 19th, 1849.—A donation of £10 ordered to be given to the chaplain in addition to his salary of £10, in consideration of his having performed divine service regularly every Sunday at the Almshouse since his appointment.

May 20th, 1830.—The sum of £5 was given towards the rebuilding of Llangwm Isha Church.

August 30th, 1850.—The Rev. John Farrand having resigned the situation of Grammar Master, the Rev. W. H. Wrenford was elected in his stead.

A memorial numerously signed by the inhabitants of Usk and the other parishes interested in the charity, was laid before the trustees, humbly requesting them to abolish the capitation fee levied on the scholars in the Grammar School on the 22nd of March, 1848. The trustees, in reply, stated that it was not in their power then to do so.

April 10th, 1851.—Mr James Cormick and his wife were appointed master and mistress of the Writing School. The number of boys in the Writing School to be limited to eighty, and the same rule to apply to the girls.

April 12th, 1852.—The sum of £10 was given towards completing a new line of road from the Chain Bridge to the Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford Railway, it being considered that such new road would be of great advantage to the property of the trustees situate in the parish of Goytre.

August 12th, 1851.—A donation of £5 5s was made to the Rev. W. H. Wrenford, in addition to his salary as Chaplain to the Almshouse.

October 8th, 1853.—A gratuity of ten guineas was allowed the chaplain for the year commencing at Midsummer last, on condition of the Sunday services from the present time being performed alternately morning and evening.

October 11th, 1854.—Part of a meadow belonging to Keven Buchan Farm was given for the purpose of making a new road from Benjamin Jones' cottage up to Keven Buchan, and £5 was given towards building a bridge over the brook called Nant-y-march.

February 16th, 1855.—A gratuity of ten guineas was allowed to the chaplain at the Almshouse, for the year commencing Midsummer last.

March 14th, 1863.—At a meeting of the trustees, it was resolved "That the consideration of the alterations and repairs necessary to be made in the Grammar School buildings, be brought before the next meeting of the trustees. Mr James Bromfield was elected trustee in the place of the Rev. Fowel Jones.

May 2nd, 1863.—At a meeting specially called by Judge Falconer and W. H. Nicholl, Esq., there were present—Iltyd Nicholl, Esq. (chairman), Judge Falconer, Rev. S. C. Baker, D. E. Partridge, Esq., Rev. W. Price, W. H. Nicholl, Esq. (old trustees), and the Rev. S. W. Gardner, Charles Prothero, Esq., W. B. Gething, Esq., Rev. G. Feilding, and James Bromfield (new trustees). Mr Greatwood resigned his office as medical attendant at the Almshouse. Judge Falconer proposed: "That the condition of the School Room is such as to require re-building." Mr Nicholl strongly advocated the plans proposed by Mr Falconer, and thought if means were taken to raise the standard of the Grammar School, it would be of material benefit to the town; and Mr Bromfield spoke at considerable length on the advantages the town would derive from having a good Grammar School. On being put to the meeting, eight voted for the resolution and four against it; two abstained from voting. The resolution was accordingly carried. The following were the several tenders received:—James Jones, Usk, £676 10s; Daniels, Crickhowell, £663; Lewis, Raglan, £650; Morgan, Raglan, £637; Jones, Raglan, £590; Roberts and Thomas, Usk, £540; Stride, Cardiff, £450. Mr Stride's tender being so much lower than the others, was accepted.

June 3rd, 1863.—It was resolved that Mr Wrenford be immediately paid £40 on account of his salary, as schoolmaster, for the year 1863, and also half his stipend as chaplain, and also the arrears (if any) accumulating between November the 7th, and December the 3rd, 1862. That Mr Wrenford be allowed 30s for prizes for the boys, at Midsummer next, and that Mr Walkey be requested to undertake their examination at that time, which that gentleman consented to.

September 30th, 1863.—Proposed by the Rev. Mr Price, and seconded by the Rev. Mr Gardner:—"That as the Rev. Mr Price, one of the trustees, intends to establish a school for the labouring and industrial classes of Llangwm, Llangeview, and Gwernesney, the trustees beg to recommend to the Charity Commissioners to allow the fifteenth part of the £530, stock belonging to the country branch of the Charity, now in the three per cent. consols, to be

sold out and paid over to him for the purpose of aiding towards the erection of the said school, and also that the income of the country branch for the current year be given towards the establishment of such school."

December 2nd, 1863.—It was resolved that the one-tenth, under the rule, be paid to the Usk Elementary School, and also that the trustees grant for this year the second one-tenth (which they may vote yearly according to their discretion) to the said Usk Elementary Schools. That Mr William Davis, the present clerk, be appointed General Agent, to look after all the lands, houses, and property, generally, on the Charity estates; see to all repairs, and report thereon to the Finance Committee and to the trustees, at their general meetings, at an annual charge of £10, to include everything. That £20 be allowed as a contribution to the road recently made in Goytre, out of the Usk Branch, by two annual payments, it having greatly improved the value of the Pandy farm.

June 20th, 1877.—Mr James F. M'Kerrow appointed master of the Grammar School.

February 29th, 1884.—At a meeting held this day, at which Messrs T. Watkins (chairman), J. H. Clark, W. B. Gething, H. C. Griffin, and the Rev. S. C. Baker, were present. Mr John Waters, the tenant of Prescoed Farm, was allowed £2 as compensation for damage done to the land in hauling timber and coppice. Mr Gustard, solicitor, attended the meeting and stated that Miss Hannah Davies, had by her will dated in 1873, bequeathed her residuary personal estate to the poor or schools of the parish of Usk, and proposed that Mrs Waddington should take out administration with the will annexed to distribute the funds as the Court may direct. It was proposed by the Rev. S. C. Baker, and seconded by Mr Watkins, that the Governors when served with a citation to appear before the Court of Probate allow the matter to pass by default in order that the suggestion made by Mr Gustard be carried out.

November 28th, 1884.—At a meeting held this day a letter from the Highway Board was read asking the Governors to give a piece of land for widening the highway near Kilfigan, and it was resolved that the Highway Board be requested to appoint a committee to meet and confer with a committee of the Governors.

July 11th, 1885.—At a special meeting of the Governors called to:—1—To consider the Head Master's letter suggesting the appointment of a Select Committee for him to consult on the question of suspensions and expulsions. 2—To hear the complaint of Mr George Mundy and the Head Master's explanation thereof. 3—To discuss the subject of suspensions generally. 4—To transact any other business arising out of the above. Mr M'Kerrow, the Head Master, attended, accompanied by his legal representative, Mr J. H. Farquhar: Mr George Mundy was also present to substantiate his complaint. Both sides were heard at considerable length. The Governors expressed their disapproval of the punishment adopted by the master, and adjourned the subject to their next meeting.

July 31st, 1885.—At the half-yearly meeting of the Governors, present—Messrs Thomas Watkins (chairman), W. B. Gething, H. C. Griffin, James Jones, J. H. Clark, Sidney Smith and Sidney A.

Hiley, and the Rev. S. C. Baker. It was resolved unanimously that a special meeting be called for the purpose of giving the master of the Grammar School six calendar months' notice of dismissal, in accordance with Clause 25 of the Scheme.

August 14th, 1885.—It was resolved that six calendar months' notice of dismissal be given to the master, and that a further meeting be convened for confirming this resolution, which resolutions were unanimously carried and confirmed at a meeting held on the 31st August.

December 30th, 1885.—A special meeting, at which all the foregoing Governors were present, with the addition of Mr A. J. Shepard, was held to receive a memorial from the town in favour of the master being reinstated, when it was proposed by the Rev. S. C. Baker, and seconded by Mr Shepard : That, in consideration of the memorial and of a letter from Mr M'Kerrow, that the resolution of the meetings of the 14th and 31st of August be rescinded ; the result of which was, that three voted for rescinding the resolution and five for the master's dismissal, one remaining neutral.

January 29th, 1886.—The Clerk was directed to advertise for a new master.

March 5th, 1886.—Out of a great number of applicants for the situation of Head Master, six were selected by the committee for final selection.

April 9th, 1886.—Mr J. H. Priestley, B.A., London, was unanimously elected.

January 7th, 1887.—The Governors consented to give thirteen perches of land for improving and widening the Coeddon road, provided the sanction of the Charity Commissioners was given.

March 25th, 1887.—A letter from the Charity Commissioners was read, sanctioning the gratuitous grant of thirteen perches of the Charity land, being part of the Prescoed Farm, to enable the Highway Board to widen the Coeddon road.



CHARITY COMMISSION.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, December 12th and 13th, 1877, R. Durnford, Esq., Assistant-Commissioner, was engaged in meeting the different public bodies of Usk, to consult and hear opinions as to the desirability or otherwise of adopting the new draft scheme for the government of Roger Edwards' Grammar School, which had been sent down to the inhabitants some months since for their consideration, and on which memorials had been based and forwarded to the Charity Commission from the inhabi-

tants generally—from the Portreeve and Burgesses—from the Managers of the National School—from the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers—and from the Local Board.

The first meeting took place on Tuesday, at eleven o'clock, when the Trustees of Roger Edwards Charity met, which was presided over by the Rev. S. C. Baker. This meeting occupied the greater portion of the day.

On Wednesday, at ten o'clock, the Portreeve and Burgesses met the Commissioner at the Town Hall, and discussed the points alluded to in their memorial. This meeting occupied an hour.

The Commissioner then proceeded to the Vicarage to meet the parochial officers, and at the conclusion of the interview met a deputation of the National School managers. The Rev. Mr. Cadwallader attended, but his presence was objected to, as he had not been nominated as one of the deputation, and he accordingly retired.

The next appointment was to meet the Local Board at two o'clock. Mr. Clark took the chair, and all the members, with one exception, were present. Before proceeding to business, Mr. Greenhow-Relf entered the room and took his seat. The Chairman informed Mr. Relf that it was a private meeting and an adjournment of the Board for the purpose of meeting the Commissioner. Mr. Relf, however, retained his seat, and wished it put to the members whether or not he should remain. The Chairman again said it was a meeting of the Local Board and not a public meeting, and the Commissioner informed Mr. Relf that he should be happy to hear any remarks from him after the conclusion of the meeting of the Board. Mr. Relf then asked if he might be allowed to make a few remarks on a public meeting which had been held in the town in April last. On the Chairman being appealed to, he said he had no objection to suspend the meeting while Mr. Relf expressed his views. Mr. Relf then entered fully into the proceedings of the April meeting, of which the Commissioner took notes. The Chairman remarked that Mr. Relf had occupied three-quarters of an hour, and the Board could not be detained longer. Mr. Relf then left, and the members of the Board proceeded to lay their opinions before the Commissioner.



The Charter to the Burgesses of Usk.

The original charter granted by Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, conferring privileges on the Mayor and Burgesses was burnt during the sacking and conflagration of the town by Owen Glendower. It was dated 26th July, 1398, in the 21st year of Richard II. The ratification of that charter was made by Edmund de Mortimer, on the 1st of February, 1416, in the 3rd year of the reign of Henry V., of which the following is a copy:—

THE CHARTER.

“EDMUND DE MORTIMER, Earl of March and Ulster, Lord Wigmore and Clare, to all Xtian people to whom these Presents shall come, Health: ~~We~~ We have loekt into a certain Charter granted by our most beloved Lord and Father *Roger* late *Earl of Marsh*, as it is said from under his Seal, containing these words, word by word:—

“*Roger de Mortimer, Earl of Marsh and Ulster, Lord of †Usk, Trellegg, Tregricke, Carlion, Edlogan, and Lebenith in Wales.*—

To all our faithful People in the parts aforesaid, and to all others to whom these present letter shall come; Health—

Know ye that we have granted, and by this present Charter have confirmed for ourselves and our heirs unto the Bailiff Community and Burgesses of our Town of Usk, and to their heirs and successors, that they have for ever all liberties, franchises, and

* Roger Mortimer, Earl of Marsh and Ulster, Lord Wigmore, was a great favorite, and thought a Gallant of the Queen of Henry 2nd, about the year 1322—1325.

† Usk, Trelleck, Llangibby, Caerleon, Tredunnoch, &c.

customs which their predecessors used and enjoyed from the time of Lady Elizabeth de Burgh, former Lady of that Town.

Also we have granted, and by this our present Charter have confirmed, for ourselves and our heirs to the same Bailiff Community and Burgesses, that they and theirs and successors freely may elect of themselves every year for ever, one Bailiff for the better government of the same town, which Bailiff so elected, they the Community Burgesses their heirs or successors or four of the most substantial of them, shall present every year within fifteen days next after the feast of Saint Michael, to our Steward or the Steward of our Heirs Lords aforesaid, which Bailiff elected and presented in the form or manner aforesaid, then shall undertake a corporal oath before the said steward or his deputy, well and faithfully according to custom, the Town aforesaid to our use and our heirs, and to all things which are proper and convenient that Bailiffs, Citizens, or Burgesses of England should swear and observe.

Moreover we grant for ourselves and our heirs to the bailiffs, community and burgesses aforesaid, and to their heirs and successors, that they, their heirs and successors have for ever these libertys under written.

That is to say, that none of them shall be drawn into any pleading before Our Heirs, or any Justices or Ministers of Ours or our Heirs out of the Hundred of our Town aforesaid, for the lands and tenements which are in the Town aforesaid, or within bounds and limits of the liberty of the same Town aforesaid, nor for any felonies, robberies, transgressions, debts, bargains, agreements, covenants, or whatever others, in the same Town, or within the bounds and limits of the Liberties thereof, done, perpetrated, or occasioned, but such shall peaceably before our Steward and that of our heirs, or his Deputy and Bailiff of the same Town

for the time being, or before the said Bailiff in the absence of the Steward of us and our Heirs or his Deputy, within the Hundred of the Town aforesaid, be impleaded and determined unless such pleas may specially touch us or our Heirs, or the Community of the said Town, always saving unto Ourselves and Heirs fines, ransoms, and amerciaments and all others.

Concerning these pleas, complaints, and prosecutions as come before our or our Heir's Stewards or their Deputies, and the Bailiff himself which shall be for the time being, or before their Bailiff in the absence of the Steward, or his deputy as is aforementioned, in such a manner forthcoming, and all others whatever as to us and our Heirs from thence issuing and over holding.

Also we have granted for ourselves and our Heirs to the Bailiff Community and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid, that none of them their Heirs or Successors shall be put with strange people in sworn assizes or inquisitions whatever, whereby before our Justices and Officers or those of our Heirs, by reason of their Lands and Tenements, it should so happen without the said Town or out of the limits and bounds of the liberty of the Town aforementioned, by reason of any transgressions, debts, bargains, covenants, or any other agreements whatsoever, without the Town's bounds and limits aforementioned, done, perpetrated and occasioned, unless in such assize sworn or inquisitions they touch any one of the Community or Burgesses of the said Town, and of theirs they touch any of them.

Then we will that one moiety of the Jury in such assizes and inquisitions be of honest and lawful Burgesses of the Town aforesaid, and the other Moiety of good and lawful Persons from the other outward Domain aforesaid, and that no one of our other outward Domains shall be put with those Burgesses or their Successors on the Jury at the

assizes or any inquisitions whatever, which before our or our Heir's Steward for the time being or his Deputy, or the Bailiff of our said Town in the absence of such Steward or his Deputy, or before any of our Justices or other officers, or those of our Heirs it might so happen on account of their Lands and Tenements within the Town, bounds and limits, occasioned or by reason of other transgressions, debts, compacts, covenants, agreements, or any other whatever, within the Town bounds and limits aforesaid, done, perpetrated, or occasioned; but that the sworn assizes or other inquisitions whatsoever by good and lawful men of the Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and within the Hundred of the said Town, shall be only done and taken, unless the assizes and other inquisitions so to be taken may specially touch us and our Heirs, or the Community of the said Town.

Moreover we grant unto the said Bailiffs Community and Burgesses of our said Town, that the Bailiff for the time being shall have the return of all briefs and precepts of us and our Heirs, within the limits and bounds of the liberty of our Town aforesaid, so that no Bailiff or Officer of ours or our Heirs shall enter the Town or the bounds to make their attachments, distresses or other executions of Briefs or Precepts of ours whatsoever, or of our Heirs, unless on the decease of any of our Bailiffs for the time being.

We also grant for ourselves and our Heirs or Successors, that if it should happen, that if any of them should be accused or impeached or in any manner assaulted concerning our seat or party, or any of our Heirs, in any strange Court of ours or our Heirs, within our Domain, before our and our Heirs' Steward, or his deputy, concerning any transgressions, felonies or other matters or disputes whatever out of the liberty of the Town; done or perpetrated and occasioned, from whence an inquisition ought to be taken, one moiety of such an

inquisition shall be of the Burgesses aforesaid of the Town, the other moiety of good and lawful men who may live within our said Domain and out of the said liberty of the Town aforesaid.

WE MOREOVER grant for ourselves and Heirs aforesaid, to the Bailiff Community and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid, that they our Licence obtained freely may make any Welch Burgess of our Town aforesaid, and that no Burgess of the said Town, or their Heirs or Successors, sons and daughters of the Burgesses of that Town, or their Servants, shall lead or be led to the Castle or any other prison of ours or our Heirs, there for any cause, for which there may be a replevy by law, he may be found sufficient surety to stand in what is right, in the Hundred of the Town aforesaid, according to law and custom of the said Town; unless he be taken for felony, or wages for work, or murder. And that the Bailiffs of our Town aforesaid for the time being, be a Coroner, and of our Heirs, so that he may have the power of doing and exercising all things which belong to the office of a Coroner within the said Town, and within the bounds and limits of the liberty of the said Town, saving unto ourselves and our Heirs all fines, &c., which may happen.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF we have to this Charter set our Seal, given at our Castle of Uske, 26th day of July, in the Reign of Richard the 2nd (after the Conquest the 21st).

WE, ALSO considering that the Copy above-mentioned, in the late Rebellion in Wales was lost, or that the Grant and our Confirmation aforesaid of the Charter aforesaid, esteeming the same consented, confirmed, and granted, for ourselves and Heirs, to the aforesaid Bailiff Community and Burgesses, and their Heirs and Successors for ever, we ratify, approve and confirm by these presents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF we have set our Seal to this present Charter, given at our Inn in

London, the first day of February, in the Reign of Henry 5th, after the Conquest 3rd.

Hugh Mortimer, in the Reign of Henry 2nd, founded Wigmore Abbey—Henry II. begun his Reign 1155—died in the year 1184.

Edmund Mortimer, the late Earl of March, died in the year 1424, in the Reign of Henry the 6th, and his Inheritance descended to Richard Plantaganet, son and heir to Richard Earl of Cambridge, beheaded at Southampton, he was created Duke of York, and was afterward Father of King Edward the 4th.

Among the Records of the Court of Chancery preserved in the Tower of London, on the Patent Roll of the Fifth year of the Reign of King Edward IV., part 1, membrane 20, is the following:—

For the men and tenants of Kerdyf respecting a confirmation. } THE King to all to whom, &c., Greeting. We have inspected Letters Patent of Henry the Sixth, late in deed but not of right King of England, respecting a confirmation made in these words. HENRY, by the Grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to all to whom these present letters shall come, greeting. We have inspected letters patent of Henry late King of England, after the Conquest the Fourth, our father, made in these words; Henry, by the grace of God, King of England and France and Lord of Ireland, to all to whom these letters shall come, greeting. We have inspected the Charter of the Lord Edward late King of England our grandfather, made in these words, Edward,* by the grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, dukes, earls, barons, justices, sheriffs, reeves, ministers, and all his bailiffs and faithful people, greeting:—We have inspected the Charter of the lord Edward late King of England,† our father, made in these words,

*Edward III.

†Edward II.

Edward, by the grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitain, to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, earls, barons, justices, sheriffs, reeves, ministers, and to all his bailiffs and faithful people, greeting :—Know ye that of our especial grace we have granted, and by this our charter have confirmed to our dear and faithful Hugh le Despenser, the younger, that he and his heirs and their burgesses and other men and tenants of Kerdyf, Usk, Kaerlion, Newport, Cowbrugge, Neeth, and Keneseg in Wales, for all their things and goods, that is to say, as well merchandizes as others, shall be for ever quit of toll, murage, pontage, pavage, lastage, stallage, pickage, tronage, keyage, landage, also all other customs and usages through our whole Kingdom, and our duchy of Aquitain, and our land of Ireland and elsewhere in our power (customs of wool, skins, wool-fells, and wines due to us and our heirs nevertheless excepted). Wherefore we will and firmly command for us and for our heirs, that the same Hugh and his heirs and their burgesses and other men and tenants of the aforesaid towns of Kerdyf, Usk, Kaerlion, Newport, Coubrugge, Neeth, and Keneseg in Wales for all their things and goods, that is to say, as well merchandizes as others shall be for ever quit of toll, murage, pontage, pavage, lastage, stallage, pickage, tronage, landage, also of all other customs and usages through our whole kingdom, and our duchy of Aquitain, and our land of Ireland, and elsewhere in our power (customs of wool, skins, wool-fells, and wines, due to us and to our heirs nevertheless excepted, as is aforesaid). These being witnesses, the venerable fathers W. archbishop of Canterbury, primate of all England, J. bishop of Norwich, and J. bishop of Chichester, Adomar de Valence, earl of Pembroke, Edmund earl of Arundel, John de Segrave the elder, Wm. Martyn, Richard Dammori, steward of our household, and others. Given by our hand at Westminster, the fourth day of March, in the seventeenth year of our reign.* We also the grant and confirmation aforesaid holding firm and valid, the same for us and our heirs, as much as in us is, do ratify, approve and confirm to our dear and faithful Edward le Despenser, cousin and heir of the aforesaid Hugh, and to the now burgesses and other men and tenants of Kerdyf, Usk, Kaerlion, Newport, Cowbrigge, Neeth, and Keneseg, as our charter aforesaid reasonably witnesseth, and as they and their ancestors, those liberties and acquitances

have heretofore reasonably used and enjoyed. These being witnesses the venerable fathers S. archbishop of Canterbury, primate of all England, W. bishop of Winchester, our chancellor, J. bishop of Rochester, our treasurer, William de Bohun, earl of Northampton, Richard, earl of Arundel, Roger de Mortimer earl of March, John de Grey of Rotherfeld, steward of our household, and others. Given by our hand at Westminster, the twentieth day of July, in the thirty-third year of our reign of England, and of our reign of France the twentieth. We also the grant and confirmation aforesaid holding firm and valid the same for us and our heirs as much as in us is, do accept, approve, and to the now burgesses and men of the said town of Kerdyf, and their successors do grant and confirm as the charters reasonably witness, and as they and their successors those liberties and acquitances have heretofore used and enjoyed. In witness whereof these our letters we have made patents. Witness myself at Westminster, the twentieth day of February, in the second year of our reign. We also the letters aforesaid of our said Grandfather, as much as in us is do accept, approve, ratify, also all and every thing in the same letters contained to our dear cousins Richard Neville, earl of Warwick, and Ann his wife, and the heirs of the body of the same Ann beggotten, also to whomsoever the resident burgesses, men, and tenants of the towns of Kerdyf, Cowbrugge, Neeth, Kenesegge and to their successors, and every of them, do grant and confirm altho' of the true annual value of all the premises or of any parcel thereof, or of other gifts and grants by us to the aforementioned Richard Nevill and Ann, before these times made, express mention is not made in these presents, or any statute, act, ordinance, or provision, made or edited notwithstanding. In witness whereof these our letters we have made patents.

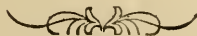
Witness myself at Redyng, the twenty-fifth day of March, in the thirty-first year of our reign.

We moreover the letters aforesaid and all and singular in them contained, holding firm and valid the same for us and our heirs, as much as in us is, do accept and approve, and to our beloved the now burgesses and others the men and tenants of the aforesaid towns of Kerdyf, Usk, Kaerlion, Newport, Coubrugge, Neeth, and Keneseg, and to their successors by the tenor of these presents, do ratify and confirm as the letters aforesaid reasonably witness. In testimony whereof &c., witness the King at Westminster, the twenty-seventh day of March.

From Camden's *Britannica*, 1695 p.p. 586, 587.

THE Mortimers descended from the niece of Gonora, wife of Richard 1st., Duke of Normandy, were the first of the Normans who, having overcome Edric Sylvaticus a Saxon, gained a considerable part of this small territory (in Radnorshire), and having continued for a long time the leading men of the County ; at length ROGER Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore, was created Earl of March by Edward III., about 1328, who, soon after was sentenced to death, having been accused of insolence to the state, of favouring the Scots to the prejudice of England, and contriving the death of his King, Edward II. He had by his wife Jane Jancoil (who brought him large revenues as well in Ireland as in England, a son called Edmund, who suffered for his father's crimes, and was deprived both of his inheritance, and his title of Earl. But his son Roger, was received into favour, and had not only the title of Earl of March restored, but was also created Knight of the Garter, at the first institution of that noble order. This Roger married Phillippa, the only daughter of Lionel Duke of Clarence the 3rd son of King Edward III. whereby he obtained the earldom of Ulster in Ireland, and the Lordship of Clare. After his decease in Ireland, his son ROGER succeeded being both Earl of March and Ulster,* whom King Richard designed his successor, to the Crown, as being, in right of his mother, the next heir, but he dying before King Richard, left issue EDMUND and Anne. King Henry IV. (who usurped the government), suspecting Edmund's interest and title to the Crown, exposed him to many hazards, insomuch, that being taken by the rebel, Owen Glendour, he died of grief, leaving his sister Anne to inherit. She was married to Richard Plantagenet, Earl of Cambridge, whose posterity in her right, became afterwards Earls of March, and laid claim to the Crown, which, in the end they obtained, and Edward IV.'s eldest son, who was Prince of Wales, Duke of Cambridge &c., had also conferred upon him, as an additional honor, the title of Earl of March.

* This Roger granted the Charter to Usk.



THE CHARTER of King Edward II. made to Dame Elizabeth de Burg of an exchange of the Lordship of Usk for certain lands, Castles, and towns of the Lordship of Gower.

EDWARD, by the Grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Duke of Aquitain, to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting : Know ye, that we of our special grace have conceded and given for us and our heirs as far as in us lies to our dearly beloved niece Elizabeth, who was the wife of John de Burg, that she may enfeof our beloved and faithful Hugh le Despenser and Eleanor, his wife, her most beloved nephew (or niece), of the Castles and Manors of Usk, Tregruk, and Kaerlion, and the Manors of Lyswry, Tyntire Parva, Newgrange, Llantrissan Parva, Trillek, Troie, Llangom, and Moundy, with their appurtenants, and the advowsons of the Churches of Tredenauth, Llandessai, Troie, Tregruck, Pentek, Kemmis, and Llandegelwith, the Abbey of Kaerlion, the Priory of Usk, the Chapel of Cwmcavon, and the Hospital of Usk, which they hold of us in capite as she saith. To have and to hold to the said Hugh and Eleanor and heirs of the said Hugh for ever of us and of our heirs, by the services thereof due and accustomed for ever in exchange for the Castles and Manors of Swayneseye, Oystremeth, Penmarck, Loghern, and Luna, with the appurtenants and the advowsons of the Churches of Swansea, Talipont, and Oystremouth, of Llangwyruth in Gower, to be given and granted to the same Elizabeth and her heirs in fee by the said Hugh and Eleanor, to be given and granted.



Harl. MSS, 1240, 19

THE fine levied in the Court of our Lord the King by which William le Zouche and Alionor his wife, have released to Elizabeth de Burgh the Castle of Usk, and other Castles and Manors, with their appurtenances to her and her heirs.

This is the final agreement made in the Court of the Lord our King at Westminster, on the morrow of the purification of Mary in May, in the 2nd year of Edward III. and the 4th, from his accession before John de

Stonoc, John Francis and Rees de Willoughby, Justices, and other lieges of our Lord the King, who were then present. Between Elizabeth who was the wife of John de Burg, complainant, and William la Zouch and Alionor his wife Deforcients, concerning the Castles and Manors of Usk, Tregreek & Kaerlion, and the Manors of Liswerry, Tintern Parva, New Grange, Llantrissan Parva, Trillick, Troie, Tregruk, Penteg, Kemys and Llandegunck, and the chapel of Cwmcarvon, and the Abbey of Kaerlion, and Priory of Usk, and the Hospital of Usk, wherefore there was a plea of covenant between them in the same Court to wit; That the aforesaid William and Eleanor, have acknowledged the aforesaid Castles and Manors with their appurtenances and the aforesaid Advowsons to be the right of the said Elizabeth, and have released and quitted claim of them to William and Elizabeth, and the heirs of Elizabeth and her heirs for ever. And moreover the same William and Eleanor have granted for them, and the heirs of the said Eleanor that they will warrant to the said Elizabeth and her heirs, the aforesaid Castle and Manors, and the aforesaid Advowsons against all men for ever. And for this recognizance, release, quit, claim, warranty, fine, and agreement, the said Elizabeth has given to the said William & Eleanor £1000 sterling.



An old document in connection with the Chase of
Wye's-wood.

BY an indenture of the 8th of July, in the 14th year of our dread sovereign lord Henry VI. [1436], between the high and mighty prince Richard Duke of York, earl of Marche and of Ulster, lord of Wigmore and of Clare, on the one part, and John ap Howell ap Jenkins, of Pantyglas, one of the gentlemen ushers of the chamber, on the other part, the aforesaid Richard Duke of York grants to the said John ap Howell, and to his heirs evermore, the office of master forester and keeper of the forest and chase called Wye's-wood, lying within the lordship of Trellick—parcel of the earldom of Marche," and with other privileges "he gives to John ap Howell, and his heirs yearly, two staggs in summer and two hinds in winter within the aforesaid chase and purlieus of the same; and two wild boars, and one shoulder and the nombles of the same, and of every deer slain within the said chase, except when he or his heirs be

hunting within the said chase in their own persons,—and then the said shoulders and nombles to be at their dispositions and commandments : but if the said John ap Howell or his heirs kill or slay any red deer, more than is before reharsed, he or they shall forfeit ten shillings sterling for every such deer. And he grants to the said John ap Howell, the right shoulder of all manner of wild cattle within the said chase, and liberties of the same ; which liberties and bounds extend from the highway leading from Devauden,—in length towards Monmouth, and in breadth to the river Wye. But if the said Duke or his heirs shall fortune to come and hunt within the said chase, the said John ap Howell and his heirs shall have two broad arrows ready headed, and sufficient force for him or his heirs to shoot at the deer at his own proper costs, and shall keep, to the best of his power, all eyries of hawks and breeding of bees.” In witness, &c., the said Richard Duke of York, in the sight and presence of Sir William Thomas, Knight, steward of his lands ; Thomas Whitegrove, chancellor ; and James Welche, esq., has put to his seal.

This document is dated from his “Castle of Uske,” the day and year before named, which are 451 years ago.



GRANT BY THE EARL OF PEMBROKE OF A MARKET PLACE
TO USK, A.D. 1598.

[*Translated from a Latin additional Charter, 5348,
British Museum.*]

TO all faithful Christians to whom the present writing shall come, Henry, Earl of Pembroke, Lord Herbert of Cardiff, Marmion, and St. Quintin, Lord President of the Council of the King within the principality of Wales and the marches of the same, and Knight of the most noble order of the Garter, Health. Know that I the aforesaid Earl for divers good and lawful considerations especially moving me, do give and grant, and by this present writing confirm to the Port-reeve, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and to my tenants of the town of Usk, in the county of Monmouth, a certain piece of un-

occupied land containing in length sixty ft., and in breadth forty feet, at the lower end of a certain street called "Newe Market Streete" in the aforesaid town of Usk, and upon which a New Building [domus] is intended to be built, it being intended that the said Portreeve, Burgesses and Inhabitants shall build and maintain on the said piece of land, the aforesaid building for a market, [domum ad forum] to be there weekly held for ever according to the ancient custom of the said town, TO have and to hold the said piece of land and aforesaid new building to the aforesaid Port-reeve for the time being, to the Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Tenants in manner aforesaid and to their heirs successors for ever, rendering thence annually to me and to my heirs, twelve pence of lawful money by the hands of the Port-reeve of the said borough or of his deputy to the hands of my Receiver for ever, at the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel. IN TESTIMONY whereof I have set to this present writing the Seal of my Arms, this fifth day of July, this fortieth year of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth, Queen by the Grace of God of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Anno Domini, 1598.

PEMBROKE.

*Ex. B.**D. Beriford**H. B. Massinger**Thomas Marshall.**Hugo Daring.*

William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, K.G., succeeded his father in 1569. He himself died in 1601. His mother was co-heir with the Marquess of Northampton, and sister of Queen Catherine Parr.



COURT LEET FORMS.

AT the Court Leet held for the Borough of Usk, upon Tuesday the 14th day of November, in the 16th year of our Sovereign Lord George the Third of Great Britain &c. King &c. and in the year of our Lord 1775, before Robert Kinsey, Esq., Portreeve, and Evan Thomas, Clerk, and David Jones, Gentleman, Burgess, the cause Jacob Barker,

the younger against Thomas Drew, in a plea of Trespass was heard.

At the Court Leet and view of Frank Pledge of our Sovereign Lord the King, together with the Borough Court, held for the said borough, on Tuesday the Sixteenth day of October, in the Fifteenth year of our Sovereign Lord George the Third of Great Britain, &c. King, and in the year of our Lord, 1775, before Robert Blandford, gentleman, Deputy Steward, and Richard Jones, gentleman, Portreeve, there the following were sworn on the

GRAND JURY.

Adam Adams	William Lucas	Lewis Lloyd
John George	William Thomas	Walter Richard
John Morgan	Giles Williams	Edwd. Richard
Willm. Morgan	Evan Morris	Philip Jasper
	Edward Jones	

FORM OF WARRANT TO SUMMON LEET.

To the Bailiffs of the said Borough, Greeting:—
These are to will and require you or one of you to give immediate summons to the Burgesses and all other the inhabitants of the said Borough, personally to be and appear at the next Court Leet of our Sovereign Lord the King, together with the Borough Court of Richard Reece, Esq., Portreeve of the said borough to be held at the dwelling house of Thomas Lewis Smith, within the said borough by adjournment, on Tuesday, the 21st day of October, in the Town Hall, at Eleven o'clock of the forenoon of the same day, then and there to do and perform their suit and service according to the custom of the said Borough, and that you and each of you be then and there personally present with this precept and your return, and further to do and perform all and whatsoever things to your duty and office doth or may appertain as you will answer your neglect herein at your peril. Given under my hand and seal the 14th day of October, 1783.

J. A. DAVIES, Steward of the said Borough.

You are also required to give personal summons or leave summons in writing at the dwelling houses of the respective persons hereunder named to serve on the JURY, viz;—

John George (gentleman), Thomas Hughes, Thomas Phillips, William George, Adam Adams, John Winstone, Howell Price, Richard Jones, Thomas Nicholas, James George, jun., John Stockham (japanner), David Davies (hatter), William Jones (weaver), John Smith, Edward Russell, William Mason, William Powell, Benjamin Bowditch, William Williams, Edward Prosser, Philip Adams, Philip Richards, John Morgan, Franklin Lewis Beeston, William Nicholas, and John Lewis, carpenter.

THE CHARGE IN COURT LEET AND BOROUGH COURT WAS GIVEN AS FOLLOWS :—

All you that are sworn draw near and attend to your charge. The principal things that are presentable and punishable in the Court are as follows :

FIRST you are to inquire how the Constables of the Borough have discharged their duty in the preservation of the peace, arresting of felons, pursuing of hues and cries according to law, and apprehending of rogues, vagabonds and sturdy beggars, you will also inquire how the bailiffs have discharged their duties in a proper attendance upon the Portreeve, and in a due execution of his orders and all civil process issuing from this borough court.

If any person hath used false weights or measures or double weights or measures that are too great to buy and too small to sell by, is how punishable by fine.

You are also to inquire of offences done and committed by forestallers, ingrossers, and regrators which are distinguishable as follows :—

A Forester is one that buys or contracts for any merchandise or victuals coming in the way to

market, or dissuading persons from buying their goods or provisions there, or persuading them to enhance the price when there, any of which practices make the market dearer to the fair trader.

An Engrosser is one that buys corn or other dead victual in any market and selling it again in the same market or within four miles of the place. This also enhances the price of provisions as every successive seller must have a successive profit.

An Engrosser is one that buys large quantities of corn or other dead victuals with intent to sell them again. This must of course be injurious to the public by putting it in the power of one or two rich men to raise the price of provisions at their own discretion.

Notwithstanding these offences are repealed by the Statute, yet they are presentable by this Court and still remain indictable at Common Law, and the general penalty is discretionary fine and imprisonment as in other minute misdemeanors. This Court would wish it known that your presentments will be followed up by an indictment.

The Bailiff on holding a Court Leet to make these three proclamations:—

All manner of Persons that do owe suit and service to this Court Leet of the most noble Henry Charles Duke of Beaufort, and to the borough court of A ——— B ———, portreeve, now to be holden in and for this borough, draw near and give your attendance and answer to your names.

You good men that are returned to inquire for our Sovereign Lord the King answer to your names.

The names of those summoned are then called over, and the defaulters after being called thrice are fined in the sum of 6s. 8d. each.

THE FOREMAN'S OATH.

You as foreman of this Jury shall enquire and true presentment make of all such things as shall be given you in charge : the King's counsel, your own, and your fellows you shall well and truly keep : you shall present nothing out of hatred or malice, nor shall conceal anything out of love, fear or affection, but in all things you shall well and truly present as the same shall come to your knowledge. So help you God.

THE JURYMEN'S OATH.

The like oath that A. ——— B. ——— your foreman hath taken on his part, you and each of you shall well and truly observe and keep on your parts. So help you God.

THE PORTREEVE'S OATH.

You shall swear that as Portreeve of this town and Borough of Usk, for the year ensuing, you will truly serve the King's Majesty in the said office and promote His Majesty's profit in all things that belong to the said office, you shall do equal right to the poor and rich after your cunning, wit, and power, and also preserve the rights and advantages of the said borough according to the laws and customs thereof. So help you God.

CONSTABLE'S OATH.

You shall well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King and the Lord of this Borough in the office of Constable in and for this Town and Borough of Usk for the year ensuing or until you be thereof discharged according to due course of law, you shall well and truly do and execute all precepts to you directed and in all things belonging to your office according to the best of your knowledge.

BAILIFF'S OATH.

You shall swear that you will well and truly serve the office of Bailiff for this Town and Borough of Usk for the year ensuing, and that you will diligently and faithfully execute all precepts to you directed and aid and assist the Portreeve in the execution of his office, and do all that is in your

power relating to your said office that tends to the profit and advantage of this borough. So help you God.

BURGESSES' OATH.

You shall well and truly serve the King's Majesty and the Lord of this Town and Borough of Usk. As one of the Burgesses thereof, you shall to the utmost of your power maintain the rights and privileges of the said borough and the inhabitants thereof, and be aiding and assisting to the Portreeve in maintaining the privileges and rights of the said inhabitants and in all things demean yourself as a faithful Burgess of this borough. So help you God.



BOUNDARY OF THE BOROUGH.

From the bridge called "Cwmcaoy," or the Long Bridge, on the Abergavenny Road, on the north of the town, along the brook over which the said bridge is built to the outlet of the brook into the river Usk; thence down the river to Llanbadoc Church; from the churchyard wall along a water course which incloses from seven to eight acres of common land, known by the name of the "Island," bounding the present course of the river [the river Usk having formerly flowed along this water course, but the rapid current has now formed the bed of the river in a straighter direction.] When the water course falls into the river near Llanwysk the river forms the boundary to the end of a piece of enclosed land on the east side of the river a few yards below a gate leading to an accommodation way for watering cattle.; thence across the main road to a bridge over the brook on land belonging to Graig-olway farm; thence along the brook side to the bridge called "Olway Bridge" on the Chepstow road on the east side of the town; thence along the brook to the eastern side of the fence of the farmyard of Little Castle Farm to the north-eastern of such farmyard; thence in a straight line to the Oak Tree in the wood hedge on the summit of Lady

Hill; thence in a straight line to the point at which Cwmcayo Brook would be cut by a straight line to be drawn from the tree last mentioned to Cwmcayo Bridge; thence along the brook to Cwmcayo or the Long Bridge.



LIST OF BURGESSES, FROM 1752 TO 1885, WITH
OCCUPATION AND DATE OF ENROLMENT.

Richard Morgan, of Llangwm	October 8, 1752
Adam Adams, of Usk, yeoman.....	April 20, 1773
Thomas Hughes. sen., of Usk, japanner	ditto
Thomas Hughes, jun., of Usk, japanner	ditto
Richard Williams, of Usk, postman	ditto
Giles Williams, of Usk, mason.....	ditto
Howell Price, of Usk, farmer	ditto
Walter Williams, of Usk, freeholder	ditto
Thomas Rogers, of Usk, tiler	ditto
Richard Reece, of Usk	Nov. 12, 1782
Richard Vaughan Morgan, of Usk, clerk	April 20, 1773
Bendigo Pritchard, of Usk, clerk.....	ditto
Evan Thomas, of Usk, clerk.....	ditto
James Davies, of Usk, gentleman	ditto
Thomas Davies, of Usk, surgeon.....	ditto
Timothy Blethin Davies, of Usk, gentleman ...	ditto
Edward Barnard Davies, of Usk, gentleman ...	ditto
Robert Kinsey, of Usk, gentleman.....	ditto
James George, sen., of Usk, tallow chandler ...	ditto
James George, jun., of Usk, tallow chandler ...	ditto
Philip Powell, of Usk, gentleman	ditto
Francis Herbert, of Usk, gentleman	ditto
Philip Jones, of Usk, gentleman.....	ditto
John Shepard, of Usk, gentleman	ditto
James Pritchard, of Usk, yeoman	ditto
Edward Harris, of Usk, tallow chandler	ditto
Thomas West, of Usk, carpenter.....	ditto
William West, jun., of Usk	ditto
William George, of Usk, harper	ditto
Walter Winstone, of Usk, hatter.....	ditto
William Williams, of Usk, haulier	ditto
Franklin Lewis Beeston, of Usk, cordwainer....	ditto
William Phillips, Usk, cordwainer	ditto
Theophilus Morgan, cordwainer	ditto
Thomas Jones, of Usk, gentleman.....	October 26, 1790
Thomas Prothero, of Usk, gentleman	ditto
Richard George, of Usk, tanner	October 23, 1792
John Saunders, of Usk, clerk	April 26, 1796
Thomas Lewis, of Usk, blacksmith.....	ditto
Thomas Wigginton, of Usk, hairdresser	ditto
David Lewis, of Usk, yeoman	ditto
Richard Stockham, of Usk, japanner	ditto
Giles Williams, jun., of Usk, japanner	ditto

Nathaniel Young, of Usk, schoolmaster.....	ditto
William Shadwell, miller	ditto
John Lewis, japanner	ditto
William Lewis, fisherman	ditto
John Kemeys Gardner Kemeys, gentleman	October 24, 1797
John Wigginton, hairdresser.....	October 14, 1804
Edward Morgan, tallow chandler	ditto
James Lewis, cooper	ditto
Iltyd Nicholl, gentleman	October 24, 1809
Alexander Jones, gentleman	April 6, 1796
Edmund Rees, carpenter	ditto
Edward Prosser, coeper	ditto
Robert George, clerk	April 22, 1805
Richard Edwards, farmer	ditto
William Pritchard, innkeeper	ditto
Thomas Lawrence Baron, gentleman	ditto
William Stockham, cordwainer.....	ditto
Thomas Barnard Davies, surgeon	October 22, 1811
James Barnard Davies, clerk.....	April 27, 1813
John Williams, clerk of indictments	ditto
Michael Davies, gentleman	ditto
Samuel Brown Prothero, attorney	ditto
William Davies, fisherman.....	ditto
Miles Ishmael, tiler	ditto
James Blythe, jun., grocer.....	ditto
George Parker, cordwainer	ditto
John Williams, innholder	ditto
William Williams, mason	ditto
William Matthews, attorney.....	October 25, 1813
Thomas Hawkins, glazier	October 26, 1813
John Shepard, gentleman	ditto
John Pyrke, japanner	April 25, 1815
John Blyth, tallow chandler	October 27, 1818
James Phillips, tailor	ditto
John George, schoolmaster.....	ditto
John Nicholas, carpenter	ditto
Thomas Morgan, blacksmith	ditto
David Lewis, blacksmith	ditto
Isaac Williams, shoemaker.....	ditto
William Davies, jun., fisherman	ditto
James Price, cordwainer.....	ditto
Thomas Lewis, tailor	ditto
Benjamin Bowditch, gardener	ditto
Isaac Wilhams, saddler	ditto
Lysond Williams, saddler	ditto
William Palmer, weaver.....	ditto
Charles Roberts, masou	ditto
Richard Morgan, shoemaker	ditto
Francis Goodman, yeoman.....	ditto
Richard Richards, yeoman	ditto
John Stockham, japanner	ditto
Thomas Richards, tanner	ditto
John Arthur, mason.....	ditto
James Morgan, cordwainer.....	April 27, 1816
Thomas Addams Williams, clerk	ditto
Isaac Rogers, tiler.....	ditto
Edward Tucker, hairdresser	ditto

William Addams Williams, gentleman	ditto	
William Smart, saddler	ditto	
John Pritchard, innholder	April 25, 1820	
John George, sen.	ditto	
John Lewis, shoemaker	ditto	
Isaac Parker, maltster	ditto	
William Morgan, shoemaker	ditto	
John Powell, shoemaker ..	ditto	
John Roberts, mason	ditto	
John Roberts, carpenter	ditto	
Elisha Reed, japanner	ditto	
John Charles, yeoman	ditto	
Thomas Addams Williams, gentleman	ditto	
Alexander Waddington, gentleman	ditto	
Joseph Edwards, yeoman	ditto	
John Lewis, blacksmith	ditto	
Edward Stockham, japanner	ditto	
William Winstone, baker	ditto	
William Edwards, tiler	ditto	
John Edwards, carpenter	ditto	
William Harris, clerk	ditto	
William Lewis, carpenter	ditto	
George Morgan, carpenter	ditto	
Morgan Davies, japanner	ditto	
John Phillips, writer	ditto	
John Edwards, butcher	ditto	
George Williams, gentleman	ditto	
Francis M'Donnell, gentleman	October 17, 1820	
William Evans, cordwainer	April 24, 1821	
Owen Matthews, writer	ditto	
John Howell, labourer	ditto	
Thomas Holmes, labourer	ditto	
Thomas West, carpenter	ditto	
Charles Morgan, labourer	ditto	
William Edwards, jun., tiler	ditto	
James Jones, of Monmouth, publican	ditto	
William Thomas, surgeon	May 13, 1824	
Thomas Griffiths, publican	ditto	
William Thomas, carpenter	ditto	
James Davies, constable	ditto	
David Morris, weaver	ditto	
Evan Jones, surveyor	April 26, 1825	
William Morgan, cordwainer	ditto	
William Taylor, wheelwright	ditto	
Francis Morgan, gentleman	October 26, 1826	
Matthew Howell, shopkeeper	ditto	
John Williams, shopkeeper	ditto	
Thomas Williams, clerk	October 17, 1827	
John Burfield, smith	ditto	
James Ashe Gabb, clerk	October 22, 1829	
Robert Francis Woollett, surgeon	ditto	
George Vaughan, butcher	ditto	
William Woodhouse Secretan, gentleman	May 20, 1830	
Thomas Reece, gentleman	October 7, 1830	
John Davies, fisherman	ditto	
Thomas Jones, gentleman	May 26, 1831	
Samuel Wyndham Jones, druggist	ditto	

Frederick Maitland Williams, attorney	May 26, 1831
Arthur Williams, gentleman	ditto
John Williams, labourer	ditto
Richard Stockham, servant	ditto
William Price, painter.....	ditto
Thomas Williams, carpenter	ditto
Thomas Williams, mason	ditto
John Williams, ironmonger	ditto
William Williams, writer	ditto
John Davies, surgeon.....	ditto
William Davies, toll-keeper.....	ditto
Edward Parker, baker.....	ditto
William Nicholas, bailiff.....	ditto
Noel Edward Stinchcomb, woodward.....	ditto
Henry Edward, agent	ditto
William Powell, gentleman	ditto
James Williams, grocer	ditto
John Merrett, gaoler.....	ditto
William Morgan, wheelwright	ditto
Edward Edwards, schoolmaster	ditto
James Jones, carpenter	ditto
John Wigginton, surgeon	ditto
Edward Stockham, cordwainer.....	ditto
William Stockham, jun., carpenter	ditto
Thomas Morgan, blacksmith	ditto
William Roberts, mason	ditto
John Pollard, writer	ditto
William Powell, cordwainer	ditto
John Williams, mason	ditto
George Morgan, jun., tiler.....	ditto
Henry Nicholas, carpenter.....	ditto
James Farr, victualler	October 13, 1835
Daniel Esbury Partridge, gentleman	October 28, 1846
William Jones, draper	ditto
Thomas Dunn, gentleman	ditto
William Evans, clerk.....	October 26, 1847
Horace Shepard, solicitor	ditto
William Bull, draper	October 25, 1849
Alexander John Shepard, surgeon.....	October 27, 1856
Henry Roberts, attorney	October 17, 1864
James Henry Clark, printer and publisher	October 27, 1873
James Parker, grocer	ditto
Oliver Davies, agent and surveyor	ditto
James Jones, merchant	ditto
John Farmer Powell, draper	ditto
William Charles Carbonell, gentleman	ditto
John Roberts, painter.....	ditto
Thomas Watkins, solicitor.....	October 28, 1878
Henry Arthur Addis, solicitor's clerk	ditto
Henry Clark Griffin, postmaster, &c.	ditto
James Williams, saddler.....	ditto
James Davies, painter	October 17, 1879
Henry Stafford Gustard, solicitor	October 31, 1879



NAMES OF THE **Portreeves** FROM 1814 TO THE
ABOLITION OF THE CORPORATION.

1814 Matthews, William	1850 Jones, Evan
1815 Saunders, Rev. John	1851 Jones, Evan
1816 Davies, Rev J. Barnard	1852 Jones, Evan
1817 Pyrke, James	1853 Shepard, Horace
1818 Matthews, William	1854 Shepard, Horace
1819 Davies, James Barnard	1855 Shepard, Horace
1820 Wigginton, John	1856 Dunn, Thomas
1821 Shepard, John	1857 Partridge, Daniel E.
1822 Williams, Thos. Addams	1858 Partridge, Daniel E.
1823 Williams, Wm. Addams	1859 Shepard, Alex. John
1824 Pyrke, John	1860 Partridge, Daniel E.
1825 Saunders, Rev. John	1861 Partridge, Daniel E.
1826 Morgan, Francis	1862 Partridge, Daniel E.
1827 Morgan, Francis	1863 Bull, William
1828 Shepard, John	1864 Roberts, Henry
1829 Jones, Evan	1865 Roberts, Henry
1830 Gabb, Rev. James Ashe	1866 Partridge, Daniel E.
1831 Reece, Thomas	1867 Waddington, Alexander
1832 Reece Thomas	1868 Waddington, Alexander
1833 M'Donnell, Francis	1869 Waddington, Alexander
1834 Reece, Thomas	1870 Waddington, Alexander
1835 Gabb, Rev. James Ashe	1871 Waddington, Alexander
1836 Shepard, John	1872 Waddington, Alexander
1837 Shepard, John	1873 Waddington, Alexander
1838 Reece, Thomas	1884 Clark, James Henry
1839 Shepard, John	1875 Clark, James Henry
1840 Jones, Evan	1876 Clark, James Henry
1841 Shepard, John	1877 Clark, James Henry
1842 Shepard, John	1878 Clark, James Henry
1843 Shepard, John	1879 Powell, John Farmer
1844 Waddington, Alexander	1880 Watkins, Thomas
1845 Waddington, Alexander	1881 Gustard, Henry Stafford
1846 Shepard, John	1882 Clark, James Henry
1847 Partridge, Daniel E.	1883 Clark, James Henry
1848 Jones, Evan	1884 Clark, James Henry
1849 Dunn, Thomas	1885 Clark, James Henry



DUTIES OF THE PORTREEVE.

In 1875 the Portreeve, Aldermen, and Burgesses stated a case for the opinion of Council as to the powers of the Portreeve at the present time, the establishment of County Courts, and other institutions took cognizance of several duties which formerly devolved upon Borough Courts. Mr Poland, Solicitor to the Treasury, had the position in which the Portreeve was placed stated to him as follows :—

The Borough of Usk comprises a small town containing about 1,600 inhabitants, and was incorporated by two Charters of which copies are annexed.

The Burgesses were formerly a numerous body, but since the Reform Act they have diminished and now number only about thirty of the principal inhabitants of the town.

The chief officer is called a Portreeve, and is elected annually by the Burgesses, and he is assisted in his duties by those Burgesses who have filled the office of Portreeve and are styled Aldermen, and is guided in his legal opinions by a Recorder, who has generally been a lawyer and is at present a barrister; and at every annual meeting two Bailiffs and two Constables are sworn in.

In former years monthly Courts Leet were held under the presidency of the Portreeve, at which various kinds of actions were tried, but upon the passing of the County Courts Act these Borough Courts for the recovery of debts and other traverses were discontinued.

The Portreeve appears, however, whenever required, to have tried criminal and other petty offences committed within the Borough, and to have punished the offenders either by fine or summary imprisonment, or by committing them for trial at the Quarter Sessions, the depositions of which cases were filed with the Clerk of the Peace.

No records of the convictions were entered in the Borough books, but the depositions were deposited

with the Clerk of the Peace, and upon searching the Calendars of Prisoners published for the Quarter Sessions, held between the years 1839 and 1849, it appears that one prisoner was committed for trial and another convicted summarily. (The very limited number of cases disposed of during these years may be attributed to the fact of the Portreeve being Clerk to the Divisional Magistrates during five of those years, and the most active of those magistrates being jealous of any rival jurisdiction.) By the Calendars from January, 1849, to July, 1855, it would seem that fifteen persons were committed for trial for larceny, felony, and false pretences, and five convicted summarily—one for assault, two for being idle and disorderly, one for hawking without a licence, and one for wilful damage. In one of these cases the conviction was signed jointly with a County Magistrate, and another conviction was by the Portreeve on a charge of stealing the property of a County Magistrate. It is believed that after July, 1855, the Portreeves for the time being allowed the jurisdiction to be taken out of their hands, and no person has been committed for trial; and in consequence of the adoption of the County Police Acts the duties of the Borough Constables have either ceased or have been neglected. The Public Acts of Parliament are regularly sent by the Government to the Portreeve.

The Portreeve has always acted as Returning-Officer at the Borough Elections (this Borough returning a Member of Parliament in conjunction with the Boroughs of Monmouth and Newport); and at the General Election in 1868, there being an apprehension that a riot would ensue, the then Portreeve issued a summons and swore in a number of special constables, and was assisted in so doing by one of the County Magistrates. The constables were paid by the Portreeve and the money refunded by the county at the next Quarter Sessions.

There is some land belonging to the Burgesses which has been let out on ground rents, and the money arising therefrom has been annually voted by

the Burgesses towards paving or lighting the town, or for other improvements. This mode of spending the money has been found very beneficial to the interests of the town, and recently several of the inhabitants have been enrolled as Burgesses, paying £3 as stamp duty for the same, and others have expressed their intention of being enrolled, and they are desirous that the powers formerly vested in the Portreeve of punishing offenders for offences committed within the Borough, and committing them to gaol, if necessary, for non-payment of fines, and for trial may be revived.

In 1835, Messrs. Booth and Austin, who held their sitting at Usk as Commissioners of Corporations, stated in their report :—" Considerable inconvenience has been expressed from the Portreeve's limited authority as a magistrate. At this time there are two county magistrates resident in the borough and the inconvenience is at present removed. As it would recur upon those gentlemen ceasing to reside, a general desire is felt that the Portreeve should be invested with the full authority of a Justice of the Peace." In another part of the report it is stated :—" His duty is to keep the peace of the borough. In the execution of this duty, he commits offenders within the borough for trial, or take their recognizances to appear at the assizes or county sessions. In slight cases of misdemeanours (usually assaults occurring at markets and fairs) he is in the habit of committing to the House of Correction or imposing a fine. He exercises no further duties as a magistrate. He is a judge of the borough Court of Record. He presides at the Court Leet, appoints the constables, and superintends the gaol. He is also coroner for the borough, but never acts in that capacity, the business being done by the county coroner."

The inconvenience complained of in the Commissioners' report exists at the present time. There are three gentlemen qualified as magistrates residing within the boundary of the borough, but they are frequently absent from their residences, and much

inconvenience is occasioned thereby. 1. Colonel Roden, during the year, has not, it is believed, been one month at his residence at Usk, and his visits are likely to be less frequent as he has a residence at Notting Hill, and is the patentee of the Snider Rifle. 2. Colonel M'Donnell belongs to the Monmouthshire Light Infantry or Engineers, and his military duties at times require his presence elsewhere. 3. Colonel Relph, of the Second Administrative Battalion of Rifle Volunteers, is also frequently from home.

The Petty Sessions for the Usk Division are held fortnightly, on a Friday, but a rule is laid down that applications for summonses shall be made whenever practicable at the meeting of petty sessions. Therefore, if an assault case or other offences are committed on the Saturday after the fortnightly petty sessions, a month would elapse before the case would be disposed of. In the year 1873, the annual Licensing Day was fixed for the 22nd August, and at the time of meeting (twelve o'clock) the licensed victuallers and beerhouse keepers of the whole division had assembled for the purpose of renewing their licenses, but owing to the fact that there was only one magistrate present, the business connected with the licenses could not be transacted, and the meeting was adjourned.

This unsatisfactory state of jurisdiction would be remedied if the Portreeve were invested with the full powers of a County Magistrate.

The Counsel, in giving his opinion, stated:—I am inclined to think that the Bailiff, now called the "Portreeve," elected, presented, and sworn as required by the Charter, is entitled to act as a Justice of the Peace for the Borough, and that he may do alone in the Borough what any Justice of the Peace is entitled to do alone. I presume there is still a Steward of the Borough to whom the Portreeve is presented and before whom he takes the old form of oath—does he take any other oaths, viz., those referred to in 31 and 32 Vic., c. 72. I do not

think that the 27th Henry VIII., c. 24, or any other statute takes away the right of the Portreeve to act as Justice of the Peace, nor do I think that he is prevented from acting owing to the interval which has taken place since he last acted as such. (See 34 and 35 Henry VIII., c. 26, sec. 27 and also sec. 4; see also secs. 1 to 27, Henry VIII., c. 24, and Grant on Corporations, page 11, and 5 and 6 William IV., c. 76, sec. 107. Although the Charters do not indicate in clear and express terms the duties of the Bailiffs, the usage which has prevailed goes strongly to confirm the view I have taken of the matter. At the time of the Corporations' Commission, 30th October, 1833, the Commissioners, referring to Usk, reported "That the Portreeve commits offenders within the borough for trial, or take their recognizances to appear at the Assizes or County Sessions. In slight cases of misdemeanours (usually assaults occurring at markets and fairs) he is in the habit of committing to the House of Correction or imposing a fine. He exercises no further duties as a magistrate. I do not think that he can act as a Justice of the Peace *jointly* with the Aldermen. An Alderman is certainly not a Justice of the Peace. I am inclined to think that he can act jointly with a County Magistrate, but this is very doubtful. In the event of the Portreeve being entitled to act with any other Justice, I think the position of the Portreeve would be that of Chief Magistrate. I think the Governor of the County Gaol would not be justified in refusing admittance to a prisoner committed there by the Portreeve.

On the 17th of June, 1837, the Portreeve of Usk committed Jane Jones to the County Prison, at Usk, for trial at the Sessions, for stealing a sovereign and a pocket, the property of Edward Williams, of the said borough. On the 16th of September, 1837, Thomas Morgan and Francis Vaughan, charged with stealing three ducks, the property of Thomas Williams, of Usk, was held to bail to appear at the Quarter Sessions by the same Portreeve.



USK BOROUGH,
in the County
of
Monmouth.

THOMAS DAVIES, Esq.,
Portreeve of the said Borough to
the Bailiffs of the said Borough,
Greeting.

You are hereby commanded, that you or
one of you take John Edmonds, if he shall be found
within the said Borough or the limits thereof, and
him safely keep in your safe custody so that you
may have his body at the next Court to be held for
the said Borough, on Tuesday, the Thirteenth day of
January next, to answer Thomas Johnes, Esq., in a
plea of Trespass upon the case to his demand of
Sixteen Pounds Sixteen Shillings. Given under my
Hand and Seal the Sixteenth day of December, in
the 24th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord
George the Third, King of Great Britain and so
forth, and in the year of our Lord One Thousand
Seven Hundred and Eighty-three.

THOMAS DAVIES,
Portreeve.

To take Bail for
Sixteen Pounds
Sixteen Shillings
by Affidavit filed.

J. H. DAVIES,
Recorder.

BARNARD DAVIES,
Attorney.



November 9, 1829.

At a meeting of the Burgesses held this
day at the Town Hall, in Usk, for the purpose of
letting the waste lands within the Borough. The
Committee, with regard to the Island, commonly
called Llanbaddock, had nothing to report.

Mr. Arthur's, about one acre	...	...	4	0	0
Mr. Nicholl's, about a quarter of an acre	...	...	1	10	0
Piece beyond the Bridge (Pontsampit)	...	...	2	10	0
Beech Hill, about an acre and a half	...	...	5	0	0

The land to be staked out by Mr. E. Jones
and Mr. M. Davis.

Rent to commence on the Second of
February next.

Terms the same as those of Mr. M'Donnell.



Usk, March 9, 1832.

We, the undersigned, the Portreeve, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Usk, recommend that the rents payable to the Corporation should be applied in improving the drains, gutters, pavements, and footways of the Town and also towards lighting and the general improvement of it, and request that the Portreeve, Aldermen, and Recorder for the time being do appropriate such rents accordingly from time to time as the same shall become due :—

Thomas Reece, Portreeve
James Ashe Gabb, Alderman
John Shepard, Alderman
John Pyrke, Alderman
Iltyd Nicholl, Alderman
J. Barnard Davies, Alderman
Francis Morgan, Alderman
Evan Jones, Alderman
Alexander Jones, Recorder
W. Addams-Williams, Llan-
gibby Castle
Francis M'Donnell
James Blyth
Giles Williams
James Lewis
Matthew Howell
John Williams
Morgan Davies
Thomas Williams
T. Addams-Williams, Vicar
John Powell
William Williams
John Davies
Elisha Reed
William Evans
John Stockham

Owen Matthews
Alexander Waddington
Isaac Williams
Lysond Williams
James Morgan
William Smart
William Davies
John Edwards
John Williams
William Thomas
John Arthur
John Roberts
Thomas West
John Nicholas
John Pritchard
Thomas Hawkins
Benjamin Bowditch
James Price
John Burfield
George Morgan
John Stockham
T. John Edwards
William Morgan
Edward Stockham
Miles Ishmael
William Palmer

From this date the funds have been applied in conformity with the above recommendation.



Usk, August 12, 1833.

To Thomas Reece, Esq.,

Portreeve of Usk.

We whose names are hereunto subscribed, being voters, request you will convene a meeting of

the inhabitants of Usk for the purpose of perambulating the Borough :—

John Pyrke.
Thomas Williams.
Thomas Hawkins.
John Pritchard.
James Ashe Gabb.
Evan Jones.
W. West.
Morgan Davies.
John Edwards.

John Burfield.
William Taylor.
William Edwards.
William Morgan.
William Morgan, junr.
John Williams.
James Keyse.
James Blyth.
John Roberts.

In pursuance of the above requisition, I hereby appoint Wednesday, the 28th day of August instant, at Eleven o'clock, for the purpose of making the proposed perambulation ; to meet at the Bridge.

Dated this 19th day of August, 1833.

THOMAS REECE,

Portreeve.



On the 3rd of December, 1863, Mr. D. E. Partridge in a letter to Alexander Waddington, Esq., stated that he was prevented from attending on Friday. That he had taken down the evidence of Messrs. Thomas Williams, Richard Lucas, Zachariah Waters, Matthew Howell, Isaac Williams, Lysond Williams, and James Price, which he inclosed, and should be most happy to attend any further meeting and render all the assistance in his power.



1.—Thomas Williams, of Usk, builder, said he was in his 74th year, and was born and bred in the town. About 35 years ago he walked the Usk Borough Boundary with the late Mr. John Shepard and others. We began near the "Bell," Llanbadoc, and followed the brook round the "Island," and went out below Pencarreg. The Burgesses claimed the whole of what is called the "Island," below Llanbadoc Church. The Upper Island on the Pontypool road was never claimed by the Burgesses. The Burgesses always claimed the Lower Island and the waste land at Ponsampit.

2.—Richard Lucas, of Usk, fisherman, said he was in his 75th year, and had lived in Usk ever since he was a boy. He always heard the Island below Llanbadoc Church belonged to the Burgesses of Usk. The Burgesses always claimed a right to fetch gravel sand or stone from this Island. He had caught salmon in the field now occupied by Mr. Jerroms, and a branch of the river went close to the church at Llanbadoc at the top of the Island, and then entered the river lower down.

3.—Zachariah Walters, aged 68, fisherman, had lived in Usk about fifty years: remembered the river running a good way round the Island, and always heard the Island belonged to the Usk Burgesses.

4.—Matthew Howell, aged 68, draper, had lived in Usk since 1815, and always understood that the Llanbadoc Island and the waste land at Pontsampit belonged to the Burgesses, and he recollected on one occasion Mr. Alexander Jones saying, "The Llanbadoc Island belongs to the Burgesses, but you have added some land and so must let that remain for my tenant at Llanwysk Farm." People from Usk used to turn sheep on Llanbadoc Island, and also sheep, pigs, and horses on the waste land at Pontsampit.

5.—Isaac Williams, of Usk, 74 years of age, saddler, said he had walked the boundaries of the Borough about forty-seven years ago. Among other places we went round the Island at Llanbaddoc, and planted a tree in the middle of it; Mr. Alexander Jones and about forty Burgesses were with us. Mr. A. Jones said, "it looks very likely the river run that way, but the waste land was very handy to my tenant at Llanwysk Farm." We had a meeting afterwards at the Town Hall to let the waste land at Pontsampit. He always understood that the Island at Llanbadoc belonged to the Usk Burgesses. The tree was left there, and Mr Alexander Jones did not object to the tree being planted. We included the waste land at Pontsampit in our walking the boundary as being within the Borough of Usk, and he recollected Mr. Alexander Jones offering the

upper part to Mrs. Arthur, the owner of the adjoining field, Cae Irion, at £5 a-year rent. Mr. Jones offered it as Recorder of the Borough, as belonging to the Burgesses.



USK BOROUGH TOLLS.

At a meeting of the Burgesses and Inhabitants of this Borough, held at the Town Hall, Usk, on Thursday, the 28th of October, 1847, the Portreeve in the chair, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of either abolishing or making some alteration in the system of taking the Borough tolls; it was the unanimous opinion of the meeting that the tolls should be modified in the following manner:—

	s.	d.
For each and every Horse, Mare, or Colt sold within the said Borough, on all Fair Days, the sum of	0	8
For every head of Horned Cattle bought within the said Borough on all Fair Days, per score	1	8
Pigs, Sheep, &c., bought within the said Borough on all Fair Days, per score ...	0	10
Pedlars, Hawkers, and all Persons coming into or exposing for sale any goods or merchandize, on foot or on horseback, to fairs in the Borough, or passing through to any other Fair, each	0	1
If hauled on a carriage, each horse ...	0	3

DANIEL ESBURY PARTRIDGE,

Portreeve.

ALEXANDER WADDINGTON,

Recorder of the said Borough.

It will thus be seen that the Tolls which have heretofore been charged on all Horses, Cattle,

Pigs, &c., passing through the Borough will not be exacted during the present Portreeve's year of office.



THE ANNUAL COURT LEET.



The annual Court Leet and View of Frank pledge of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, together with the borough court of the most noble Henry Charles Fitzroy Duke of Beaufort, lord of the said borough, was held at the Town Hall, Usk, in and for the said borough, on Wednesday, the 28th of October, 1874, Mr. Thomas Dunn, Mr. J. H. Clark, Mr. Oliver Davies, Mr. J. F. Powell, Mr. Thomas Williams, Mr. George Morgan, burgesses, and other inhabitants then and there present. Proposed by Mr. George Morgan, and seconded by Mr. Thomas Williams, that Mr. J. H. Clark be elected Portreeve of the borough for the ensuing year; which was carried unanimously, and Mr. Clark was sworn into office accordingly. Alfred Lewis and Abraham Rogers were sworn in as constables of the borough for the ensuing year. The late treasurer's account was examined, and audited, and found correct, and shewed a balance of £26 6s. in favour of the treasurer, which was ordered to be paid as soon as sufficient funds were in hand. Resolved that H. S. Gustard, Esq., be appointed treasurer in the room of A. Waddington, Esq., deceased, and be requested to get in all rents due immediately after Christmas next. Resolved that the four old burgesses, viz, William Thomas, James Price, James Morgan, and Lysond Williams, be allowed 10s. each out of the borough funds; and that the constables be allowed a dinner, the expense to be paid out of the same funds. The following is a copy of the late treasurer's account :—

The Representatives of the late Mr. Waddington in
account with the Corporation of Usk.

1873.	Dr.	£	s.	d.
October 27.—To balance in hand		24	18	3
1874.				
October 28.—Balance due from Corpora- tion		26	6	0
		<hr/>		
		£51	4	3
		<hr/>		

1873.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
October 27.—By cash paid four old Burgesses		2	0	0
1874.				
February 27.—By cash paid Herbert Thomas on account of paving in Old Market- street		30	0	0
March 12.—By ditto, balance for ditto		19	4	3
		<hr/>		
		£51	4	3
		<hr/>		

October 28, 1874.—By balance brought down	26	6	0
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October 28, 1874.—Audited and found correct.

THOMAS DUNN.
GEORGE MORGAN.



THE PORTREEVE'S DINNER.

Every year the Portreeve's dinner was held immediately after his appointment at one or other of the inns in the town, when the Portreeve-elect presided, and the Recorder or Deputy-Recorder generally filled the vice-chair. On the present occasion this annual dinner took place at the Three Salmons Hotel, when the meeting was far more numerous than was expected, considering the late

hour on the previous day at which the invitations were issued, the day having been altered from the Friday following. The party was a most social and pleasant one, twenty-four having accepted the invitations. The company took their seats at half-past five, Mr. J. H. Clark, Portreeve of the Borough, in the chair; Alderman Dunn in the vice-chair; and among those present were: Captain Gething, Messrs. T. Watkins, jun., James Jones, George Edmunds, J. F. Powell, James Parker, George Morgan, John Hart, T. Williams, J. T. Cherry, James Cassidy, James Davies, F. E. Gray, Oliver Davies, R. Satchell, Henry Williams, and John Morgan, of Usk; Mr. John Jones, of Trostrey Court; Mr. Peter Marfell, Cwm Farm, Clytha; and Mr. E. Pritchard, Trostrey.

On the removal of the cloth, the Chairman gave "The Queen;" "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family;" "The Members of the County and Borough." On proposing "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," the Chairman remarked that to the different branches of the Service they were indebted for the peace which prevailed, and the quietude they enjoyed. There was a gentleman present who belonged to the volunteer force, and who did honour to it. He (the speaker) knew the close attention that was required to gain proficiency in drill as an officer; and after that there was a difficulty to overcome—to gain confidence to give the word of command. Captain Gething, he was happy to say, had gained that proficiency, and had passed his examinations with the greatest credit to himself and the corps of which he has the command, passing by many older officers in the service. The men belonging to the Usk Corps deserved every encouragement from their fellow-townsmen. He, with his friend the vice-chairman, had on several occasions collected sums for giving prizes to be shot for; and he should be happy at any time to assist in collecting money for that purpose, and he hoped those who could afford it would liberally contribute.—(Hear, hear.)—With

these remarks, he would give "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," with which he would connect the health of Captain Gething.—(Applause and musical honours.)

Captain Gething, in responding to the very enthusiastic and kind manner in which his name had been received, spoke of the difficulty of keeping a company together formed of so many classes of men. The members of the corps required some encouragement, and he and his brother officer had this year given monthly prizes to be shot for. He should be very glad to find a fund had been raised for prizes at their annual shooting matches. As for himself, he was much gratified at the manner in which his services had been spoken of, and the very flattering reception given to the toast.—(Applause.)

The Chairman then rose, and said the toast he was going to propose was never given in that room without being received with the heartiest applause. It was "The health of His Grace the Duke of Beaufort, Lord-Lieutenant of the County, and Lord of this Borough." His Grace was not only noble in position, but noble in mind and feelings. The interest he took in the welfare of the inhabitants of the county, particularly in those of their own district, was frequently shown; and on the recent occasion, when he came from Ireland purposely to prevent the county being saddled with an enormous expense by the removal of the Quarter Sessions to Newport, showed how much he had the welfare of the county at heart. Their Newport friends may taunt the people of Monmouth and Usk with being servile, but he was convinced there was no servility in the matter. They were always ready to support and do honour to his Grace, but it arose from a feeling of respect, and not from coercion; for the Duke would not practise any of the despotism so often displayed by petty village tyrants. As for the Duchess—her kindness, affability, and charity were highly spoken of by their Monmouth friends, with whom she so often had intercourse—(hear, hear)—and for the Lady Blanche, who had recently been

united to the Marquis of Waterford, they entertained the highest respect. This lady was a pattern to her sex, when in her girlish days she used to be taking her rounds in the neighbourhood of Monmouth with her donkey and cart, distributing little comforts to the indigent and infirm of the district. She deserved every happiness, and it is to be hoped that she will experience it.—(Hear, hear, and applause.)—With these few remarks, he would give them “The health of the Lord of the Borough.”—(Applause and musical honours.)

The Chairman said the next toast he was going to give was “The Magistrates of the District,” and with that toast he would couple the name of a gentleman which he was sure they would receive with much pleasure, for he was more intimately connected with the town than any other. His father had lived long among them, and took great interest in the prosperity and welfare of the inhabitants, and supported the trade of the town. His mother was a most amiable and kind lady, and everyone who had the pleasure of her acquaintance found her most affable. Unfortunately, age and infirmity now prevented her appearing in public, but he was sure each one of them was ever pleased to know that she was well in health.—(Hear, hear.)—With regard to the gentleman himself, he was born in that town; he was most gentlemanly and kind toward his fellow-townsmen; and he seemed to think their comfort identical with his own. He felt an interest in the prosperity of the inhabitants, and spent a great portion of his income among them.—(Hear, hear.)—It was only to mention the name of Colonel M'Donnell, and the toast would be well received.—(Applause.)—One of the magistrates, Mr. Lister, had, at a recent meeting, for the second time, made some strong observations on an article which appeared in the *Observer* reflecting on the conduct of the magistrates. The magistrates had fixed the day for the brewsters' petty sessions, when all the licensed victuallers in the district were expected to attend to receive a renewal of their

licenses; the parties attended to the number of somewhere between forty and fifty, some from miles around, leaving their businesses in the care of whom they could get, and when at the meeting they found only one magistrate, Colonel Relph, present. This called for some remarks in the interest of the public; and Mr. Lister, not liking the censure, has twice in a sarcastic speech alluded to the article. I feel confident I did but perform a duty to the public in condemning such a neglect of duty.—(Hear, hear.)—I must exempt Colonel M'Donnell from any blame in the matter, for he was at the time serving his country in another capacity, being with his regiment in North Devon. I give you, gentlemen, "The health of Colonel M'Donnell."—(Cheers and musical honours.)

Mr. Cassidy said he did not rise to return thanks for the magistrates, but he could fully endorse all that the Chairman had said with regard to Colonel M'Donnell. He knew the Colonel to be much attached to the town and inhabitants, and that he had on several occasions refused very handsome offers for his residence rather than leave. He felt an interest in everything that tended to the welfare of the town, and took pleasure in spending his money among his own immediate neighbours. As a magistrate, he pursued an honest and straightforward course; he formed his own opinion, and would not be biassed by others to act contrary to his own convictions.—(Hear, hear.)

Captain Gething then rose to propose "The health of the Portreeve," who he was glad to see in that position, and had not the least doubt but he would carry out the duties to the satisfaction of them all, and for the benefit of the town.—(Applause, and musical honours.)

The Chairman returned thanks for the kind manner in which the toast had been received, and felt it a great honour to be elected by the unanimous wish of the burgesses, as he had been. He was not ambitious for the post, but as there were certain

revenues belonging to the burgesses to be looked after, it was necessary that the office should be kept up; and as there appeared to be a general wish among his friends that he should be elected, he consented to hold the office for the present year. He would not detain them long, but on looking over some old documents, he had taken a few notes on the charter and the privileges of the burgesses. In olden times these privileges were great, but at the present time the abolition of tolls at fairs, markets, &c., in this borough as well as throughout the country, the grants and privileges were now of but little value:—

The First Charter conferring privileges on the Bailiff and Burgesses of this borough was dated as far back as the 26th of July, 1398, in the 21st year of the reign of Richard II, by Roger de Mortimer, Earl of March and Ulster, Lord of Usk, Trelleck, Llangibby, Caerleon, and Tredunnoch.

King Henry IV., in the year 1400, obtained the crown of England from Richard, and kept prisoner at Windsor, Edmund Mortimer, who was the rightful heir to the crown of England, and then only seven years of age, being the great grandson of Lionel Duke of Clarence, elder brother of John of Gaunt.

In 1401, Henry had a formidable foe in Owen Glendwr, who was joined by Percy Earl of Northumberland, and his son Hotspur, with Douglas, and the Earl of Westmoreland.

The great battle of Shrewsbury, where Prince Henry of Monmouth banded blows with Owen, was fought in 1403. The Prince Henry was wounded in the face by an arrow, but refused to quit the field. Owen marched into Glamorganshire and ravaged and pillaged it in all parts, destroying the Bishop's Palace and Cathedral at Llandaff, and burning Cardiff. He then burnt Abergavenny.

In 1405, at the battle of Grosmont, Owen attacked the castle of Usk, but met with a signal defeat, and in retaliation he sacked and set fire to the town, and the Charter to the Burgesses of Usk was supposed to have been destroyed.

On the 1st of February, 1416, in the third year of the reign of Henry V., Edmund Mortimer, at the castle of Usk, ratified the Charter made by his father, Roger, which granted to the burgesses of the borough of Usk, and to their heirs and successors, all the liberties, franchises, and customs, which their predecessors enjoyed, and to elect for themselves every year one Bailiff or Portreeve for the better government of the said town, who shall undertake a corporal oath to well and faithfully preserve the privileges to the borough.

The privileges of the burgesses are enumerated, many of which are now exploded from change of customs and manner of transacting business.

In the fifth year of the reign of Edward IV. (about 1466), the King confirmed to Hugh l'Despencer, the younger, and to his heirs and the burgesses of Cardiff, Usk, Caerleon, Newport, Cowbridge, Neath, and Kenfig, certain privileges in the transit of merchandize, and exempting cattle and other things from toll, which are recited in these words, "They shall be ever free or quit of toll, murage, pontage, pavage, lastage, stallage, tronage, keyage, landage, and all other customs and usages throughout our whole kingdom, and our Duchy of Aquitaine, and our land of Ireland."

In olden times these privileges were of much importance when but few shops existed, and when persons took their goods and cattle from town to town throughout the kingdom for sale at fairs, and heavy tolls were levied. Each burgess was then furnished with a slip of parchment, on which was transcribed his name, calling, residence, and qualification, and this was his passport and freedom from taxation.

Some of the words used to designate the exemptions are now obsolete, but I may just mention for the information of some, the meaning of those words.

Toll was a tax paid for some liberty or privilege, particularly for travelling over a road or bridge, or to the owners of a fair or market.

Murage was a tax for keeping walls in repair.

Pontage.—A duty paid for repairing a bridge.

Parage.—A tax levied for paving of streets.

Lastage.—A duty paid for freight or transmission in a ship.

Stallage.—The right of erecting stalls at fairs.

Tronage.—A toll for weighing wool.

Keyage.—Money paid for the use of a key or wharf.

Landage.—A tax levied on land.

From all these taxes the burgesses were exempt.

The number of burgesses at present on the roll is 25, four only of whom are freemen and eligible to vote for a member of Parliament.

Edmund Mortimer died in 1424; his widow held the castle until her death in 1432, when Richard, Duke of York, nephew of Edmund Mortimer, succeeded to the castle and made it his residence, and his two sons Edward and Richard, afterwards Edward IV. and Richard III., are said to have been born in the castle.—(Applause.)



THE FINAL COURT LEET DINNER.

On Monday, November 9th, 1885, the final Court Leet Dinner was held at the Three Salmons Hotel. Mr. J. H. Clark, the Portreeve-elect, presided, and was supported by Thomas Cordes, Esq., Colonel M'Donnell, the Vicar of Usk, Colonel Roden, W. T. Roden, Esq., H. S. Gustard, Esq., and Thomas Watkins, Esq., Mr. H. C. Griffin (Deputy-Recorder), occupied the vice-chair, and among those present were Messrs. J. Billingham, J. O. Nicholas, — Morris, W. Salton, W. J. Butt, G. Edmunds, John Haggett, James Williams, J. T. Cherry, W. H. Slade, J. H. Hillier, G. Mundy, H. A. Addis, James Parker, J. Charles, Edward Price, W. Williams (Little Cefn Ila), Henry Jones, J. F. Powell, &c., &c.

The Chairman gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, that of the Bishop and Clergy, being

responded to by the Rev. S. C. Baker. The Army, Navy, and Reserved Forces was also given from the chair, and responded to in good practical remarks by Colonel M'Donnell and Colonel Roden.

Thomas Cordes, Esq., next rose to propose the toast of the evening, that of Mr. Clark, the Portreeve of Usk. He had occupied that position for several years, and he (the speaker) was sorry to say this would be the last year they would have to meet under the presidency of a Portreeve, as recent legislation had swept away many of the old institutions of the country. A great many corporations had been abolished under the Municipal Corporations (Unreformed) Bill, and Usk was included in the number, as the population was not up to the required number. He believed Usk was one of the oldest corporations, having existed for nearly 500 years. After some complimentary remarks, the "toast" was drank with musical honors.

Mr. Clark, in responding, thanked Mr. Cordes for the kind remarks he had made and to the company for the enthusiastic manner in which they received the toast. In March next, this corporation, which was one of the oldest in the kingdom, would be abolished, after an existence of nearly 500 years, and they had met that evening for the last time, as a corporate body, as it were, to chant a dirge on the occasion; but, nevertheless, they would, as Mark Tapley would say—"be jolly under creditable circumstances." Before resuming his seat he would just give them an epitome of matters connected with the Corporation. In the year 1398, Sir Roger de Mortimer (Earl of March and Ulster) granted a Charter conferring privileges on the Mayor (Portreeve) and Burgesses of Usk, which Charter was lost; supposed to have been burnt during the sacking of the town by Owen Glendwr. The Charter was afterwards ratified by his son Edmund de Mortimer in 1416, in the third year of Henry V. The privileges conferred on the Burgesses of Usk by this Charter were very great. A burgess was supplied with a parchment script, which passed

the bearer toll free through any town or village in England, Ireland, Scotland, and part of France. This was a very great privilege, for in those days shops in towns were few, and the majority of people carried on their trades by attending statute fairs, and this script permitted the Burgesses of Usk to travel toll free and free right for erecting stalls at fairs and markets. With regard to the powers of the Portreeve, they were greater than those possessed by the county magistrates. He held monthly courts in the borough where presentments were made, traverses tried, debts recovered, and prisoners tried for thefts and misdemeanors committed in the borough. The establishment of County Courts, the Police Force, and Local Boards relieved the Portreeve from most of these duties, and the Borough Constables and Bailiffs became unnecessary, although they have been annually appointed up to the present time.

The next toast was given for the Visitors, accompanied by the name of Mr. Cordes, which was enthusiastically received and musical honors accorded him, to which Mr. Cordes returned thanks.



THE MEMORIAL WINDOW IN USK CHURCH.

The last act of the Portreeve and Burgesses of this ancient Borough of Usk was to place a memorial window in the fine old church of St. Mary's, which was unveiled and consecrated on Monday, the 15th of March, 1886.

UNVEILING AND CONSECRATING THE WINDOW.

The Service for the Dedication of the Window, commenced with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect, "Prevent us, O Lord, &c.,"

After which Mr. James Henry Clark (the Portreeve), accompanied by Mr. Henry C. Griffin (Deputy Recorder), Mr. H. S. Gustard (Alderman), and Messrs. W. C. Carbonell, James Parker, H. A.

Addis, John Roberts, and G. Morgan (Burgesses) proceeded towards the pulpit, where the following sentences were delivered, the congregation, which was numerous, all standing :—

THE PORTREEVE : We have caused a window to be placed in God's House, and our humble desire is, that it may be dedicated to the Honor of God, by your prayer, according to the Word of God, and the custom of this Church.

PRIEST : While it remained was it not thine own, and before it is given to God, was it not in thine own power, but when once you give it to God, it can never be recalled, but is His for ever.

THE PORTREEVE : We humbly desire He will be graciously pleased to receive it, and that it may remain His own, for His service, and His Honor for ever.

The Deputy Recorder then *unveiled* the Window.

PRIEST : Vouchsafe, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, to bless, sanctify, and consecrate this window for Thy service, and grant, that we who are permitted to worship Thee in Thy courts below, may hereafter adore Thee for ever in Heaven, through Jesus Christ Thine only Son our Lord. Amen.

The Lord bless you, and prosper you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be merciful unto you. Remember Thy servants, O Lord, concerning this also, Accept their gift, Sanctify their hearts, Purify their intentions, Reward their loving kindness, and spare them according to the greatness of Thy Mercy, Enrich them with all blessings of Thy Spirit, and Thy Providence, for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Appropriate Prayers and Psalms then followed in which the congregation took part, after which followed the Dedication Service.





NUISANCE REMOVAL ACT.



In 1857 a committee was appointed as the Usk Board of Health under the "Nuisance Removal Act" for the town of Usk. On Tuesday, the 11th of August in that year, a meeting was held at which were present: Messrs. G. R. G. Relph, T. Dunn, J. H. Clark, and Jas. Parker, and Messrs. R. Roberts and C. Stockham, Surveyors. Mr. Clark was voted to the chair, and announced that in compliance with a resolution of the last meeting he had written to Major Herbert, the Chief Constable, with respect to the appointment of Mr. Sergeant Edwards as Sanitary Inspector. Major Herbert had sanctioned the appointment. Sergeant Edwards was unanimously elected. Some preliminary arrangements for effectually carrying out the act were then made, and a series of rules and regulations were framed and adopted.



ADOPTION OF A LOCAL BOARD.

In the month of January, 1872, the owners of property and ratepayers of the town of Usk being desirous of adopting the Local Government Act, 1858, several of the largest ratepayers formed themselves into a committee to carry out that object.

A meeting of the committee was held on Monday, the 11th of March, 1872. Present—Mr. James Jones, waywarden of Usk, in the chair; Messrs. Thomas Dunn (guardian of the parish), William Price, J. H. Clark, James Parker, Oliver Davies, Richard Roberts, Herbert Thomas, J. Edwards, H. C. Griffin, John Thomas, Charles Stockham, J. F. Powell, and T. Hambly.

It was unanimously resolved, "That every effort be made to get the Local Government Board

adopted in the town of Usk." Reasons were then drawn up for desiring the adoption of the Act, and the meeting before separating instructed the Chairman to address the following to the Portreeve :—"To Alexander Waddington, Esq., Portreeve of Usk. We, the undermentioned owners of property and ratepayers of the town of Usk, respectfully request you to convene a meeting of the inhabitants at an early date to adopt the Local Government Act."

In compliance with this request, the Portreeve called a meeting for the 21st of March. On that day the meeting was numerously attended by owners of property and ratepayers. Mr. J. F. Powell, churchwarden, was voted to the chair, and among those present were Alexander Waddington, Esq. (Portreeve), Mr. James Jones (waywarden), Messrs. James Parker, J. H. Clark, T. Hambly, J. Jones, C. Stockham, J. Keats, J. T. Cherry, John Roberts, John Charles, O. Jenkins, R. Lucas, I. T. Dando, James Lucas, H. C. Griffin, S. Smith, &c.

In reply to the Portreeve, who asked if any person present had anything to state to the meeting on the subject, Mr. J. H. Clark said that some of the owners of property and ratepayers had met in committee and considered that it would be very desirable that the Local Government Act should be adopted in the town, for various reasons which he explained. By the Local Government Amendment Act of 1863, it was laid down that the adoption of the Act by places with a less population than 3,000 at the last census was not valid, without the approval of the Local Government Board at Whitehall, whose permission for the formation of such board would be given on proof of special circumstances showing that the adoption of the Act was expedient. He thought that they could show that it was expedient that a Local Board should be formed in the town, and the reasons were these :—

- 1.—That the private drainage of the town is very defective.

2.—That the water supplied to the inhabitants is from wells from ten to sixteen feet below the surface, and that a privy cess-pool is at the back of nearly every house, and often in proximity to the wells.

3.—That the soil, being on a good bed of gravel, is very porous, and in some of the wells that have been opened sewage to the depth of eighteen inches has been found at the bottom.

4.—That houses are built in the town without proper attention being paid to the drainage and water supply; and there is no power in force in the town to regulate the same.

5.—That some of the streets are wide with several open spaces, on which encroachments are made; and there is no existing power in the town to prevent such practices, beyond the Highway Act, which prevents parties from making encroachments within fifteen feet of the centre of the highway.

6.—That at a parish meeting, very numerously attended, it was unanimously resolved that a sewer should be constructed through one of the main streets to carry off the sewage, instead of its being lodged in cess-pools as before stated. That when this matter was brought before the Highway Board (the present governing body) which consisted almost exclusively of farmers representing the surrounding rural parishes, the proposition was rejected.

7.—That during the past year the town has severely suffered from epidemics, and small-pox and scarlet fever has been very prevalent; which may be attributable to defective drainage and other existing impurities.

Mr. Clark then proposed, and Mr. James Jones seconded, and it was carried unanimously, that "The Local Government Act be adopted in this parish."

Mr. Greenhow-Relf, who was at the time Chairman of the Highway Board, feeling that the formation of the Local Board would in a measure

curtail his power in the parish, strongly opposed the measures taken for the adoption of the Act, and instructed Mr. Keats, Clerk to the Highway Board, to make extracts from the minutes on the books to endeavour to shew that the reasons assigned by the meeting at the vestry were calculated to convey to the Local Government Board an erroneous impression; this Mr. Greenhow-Relfh supplemented by an appeal against the adoption of the Local Government Act by the parish of Usk, in which he set forth various reasons and attached unjust motives to the promoters, winding up a tedious diatribe by several technical objections as to the mode of proceeding in obtaining the sanction of the Local Government Board. These communications were published in the "*County Observer*" of May 4, 1872.

On the 30th of May a meeting of ratepayers took place, at which were present Messrs. George Relfh Greenhow-Relfh, James Parker, James Henry Clark, Thomas Dunn, James Jones (merchant) John Farmer Powell, Oliver Davies, John Thomas, Sidney Smith, Henry Williams, James Keats, William Jerroms, Charles Stockham, Henry Roberts, Richard Lucas, James Willetts, John Davies, and John Haycox. The meeting had been called at the instigation of Major Greenhow-Relfh, who explained that his object in summoning the meeting was to lay before the parishioners the powers given them under the "Sewage Utilization Act, 1866," as he thought they could not be aware of the extent of those powers, or they would not proceed to take further steps to adopt the "Local Board Act." He also stated that the meeting had not been legally called, but yet he should wish the ratepayers to express their opinions, in order that at the meeting of Waywardens on Monday next, he might be able to state their views. Several present wished the matter deferred until an Inspector had been sent down, and after about an hour's discussion the first nine, with the exception of Major Greenhow-Relfh, left the meeting.

At a vestry meeting held on the 13th of June, very numerous attended, a letter from the Local Government to Alexander Waddington, Portreeve, was read, in reply to an enquiry, to inform him that he would receive notice of the Inspector's visit.

After Mr. Clark had announced the object of the meeting and the reasons for adopting the Local Government Act in Usk, the following resolutions were proposed, seconded, and adopted.

Proposed by Mr. J. H. Clark, seconded by Mr W. Price, and carried unanimously,

That during the pending of the "Public Health Act," now before Parliament, it is deemed undesirable to construct any new sewer or re-construct any of the old sewers in the Town of Usk.

Proposed by Mr. Charles Stockhom, seconded by Mr. James Parker, and carried unanimously,

That this meeting deprecate the opening of any old sewer, or disturbing the public streets of the Town of Usk, during the summer months of this year.

Proposed by Mr. James Jones, seconded by Mr. John Thomas, and carried unanimously,

That, as the Local Government Act has been adopted in Usk, and as an Inspector from Government has been requested to visit the Town, it is the opinion of this meeting that no action should be taken with regard to the drains or sewers until such Inspector has reported thereon.

Proposed by Mr Sidney Smith, seconded by Mr. John Price, and carried unanimously,

That, as the law with regard to the pollution of rivers by sewage is likely to materially affect the ratepayers of this Town, it is the opinion of this meeting that none of the drains or sewers should at present be disturbed, until a thorough and efficient plan for disposing of the sewage be submitted to and adopted by the Local Government Board.

Proposed by Mr. John Price, seconded by Mr. W. Price, and carried unanimously,

That any request to the Highway Board to construct any drains or sewers, or any resolution passed at any parish meeting relating to the sewage of the Town prior to this meeting, be and is hereby rescinded.

Proposed by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. James Jones, and carried unanimously,

That if the Highway Board persist in making the sewer in Porthycarne-street, contrary to the wishes of this meeting, for which resolutions are passed thereon, that this meeting will sanction the committee appointed to adopt the Local Government Act, to employ a legal gentleman to take action in the matter.

Mr. James Jones said in order to show how desirous the inhabitants are to adopt the Local Government Act, he would read the names of the parties who signed the requisition to the Portreeve to call a meeting for its adoption. The list numbered 109.

It was ordered that a copy of the six foregoing resolutions be forwarded to the Chairman of the meeting fixed to be held that evening.

At a vestry meeting held at 7 p.m. on the above day, convened for the purpose of "taking into consideration the 'Sewage Utilization Act, 1865,' and to adopt such measures in relation thereto as shall in such vestry meeting be deemed advisable, and if thought proper, in such vestry to appoint and name a Committee to carry out the provisions of the said Act, or some of them."

About seventy ratepayers were present, and Mr. John Edwards was again voted to the chair.

Mr. Relph, in a very earnest speech, which occupied upwards of an hour, with some few interruptions from persons asking questions, defended the acts of the Highway Board, of which he was Chairman, and expressed his determination to proceed with the sewer in Porthycarne-street. The pipes were all ready, and the Surveyor was instructed to proceed with the work. Mr. Relph, in conclusion, proposed the following resolution :

That a Committee of Ratepayers be appointed to carry out the provisions of the "Sewage Utilization Act, 1865," so far as relates to the improvement, and construction, and diversion of sewers, and removals of nuisances in the Town and Parish of Usk.

Mr. Henry Roberts seconded the resolution, and there being no amendment, it was put to the meeting, when about eight voted for it, and the remainder held up their hands against it. It was therefore negatived.

On the 25th of June printed notices were received from London and were posted about the town. The notice was as follows :—

“Local Government Act, 1858, 21 and 22 Vict., Cap. 98.

Whereas, in pursuance of the 18th Section of the Local Government Act, 1858, and of an appeal duly presented to the Local Government Board by G. R. Greenhow-Relph, Esq., a ratepayer resident within the parish of Usk, in the County of Monmouth, against the validity of the vote for the adoption of the Local Government Act, 1858, by that parish, inquiry has been directed as to the genuineness of such appeal, and as to the matters alleged therein. Notice is hereby given, that on Wednesday, the 10th day of July, 1872, at the Three Salmons Inn, Usk, Robert Morgan, Esq., C.E., the inspector appointed for the purpose, will proceed upon the said inquiry, and will then and there be prepared to receive the evidence of all persons entitled to be heard before him upon the subject matter of the said inquiry.

Dated this 24th day of June, 1872.”

On the 5th of July a meeting of the Local Board promoters took place. There were present—Messrs. J. H. Clark (chairman), James Jones, James Parker, John Edwards, H. C. Griffin, Herbert Thomas, and O. Davies.

Mr. Relph's letter of appeal against the validity of the adoption of the Act was read and remarks made thereon, and it was resolved that the same be placed in the hands of Mr. Blount, solicitor, and it was agreed that he should represent the committee on Wednesday at the inquiry.

The meeting was well attended by the principal ratepayers to support the adoption of the Act, among whom were—Alexander Waddington, Esq. (Portreeve of the borough), David Lawrence, Esq. (The Priory), Rev. W. H. Wrenford, Messrs. James Jones, James Henry Clark, James Parker, Oliver Davies, James Davies, Thomas Dunn, Herbert Thomas, Henry C. Griffin, John F. Powell, Henry A. Addis, James Williams, David L. Jones, Thomas Hambly, R. Satchell, John Thomas, John T. Cherry, James Willetts, and Henry Nicholas. Mr. Relph (Chairman of the Highway Board), Mr. Keats (Clerk to the Highway Board), and Mr. Henry Williams (Surveyor to the Highway Board), were the only persons present to oppose the adoption of the Act. Mr. Charles Blount, solicitor, attended on behalf of the promoters of the motion for adopting the Act. Mr. Morgan, the Government Inspector, went through the reasons assigned by the promoters for the adoption of the Act, and also through the technical points raised and the objections urged by Mr. G. R. Greenhow-Relph. At the conclusion of the investigation, the inspector promised to lay the evidence before the Local Government Board in London.

On the 1st of October, 1872, A. Waddington, Esq., the Portreeve of the borough, received a communication from the Local Government Board, stating that an informality in signing the minutes having occurred, they would not be justified in publishing the adoption of the Act.

In consequence of the reply another meeting became necessary, and such meeting was held on Thursday, the 12th October, 1872. Mr. J. F. Powell, churchwarden, occupied the chair, and after reading the notice convening the meeting, asked if any gentleman had any resolution to propose. Mr. Waddington, Portreeve of Usk, said perhaps Mr. Clark could tell them what had recently been done in the matter. Mr. J. H. Clark said he would not detain them by going into detail, but merely give a

summary of what had been done. In the month of January, 1872, the owners of property and rate-payers of this town, being desirous of adopting the Local Government Act, 1858, several of the largest ratepayers formed themselves into a committee to carry out that object, and as I have had the honor of presiding at those meetings, I may, perhaps, be better able than any other person to explain what has been done. On the 23rd of January, enquiry was made of the Local Government Board as to what steps should be taken in order to bring into force the provisions of the Act. I must here tell you that the adoption of the Act by places of less than 3,000 inhabitants by the last census is of no validity, without the approval of the Local Government Board in London, given on proof of special circumstances, showing that the adoption of the Act is expedient. Our town and parish being under 3,000, we had to state our special reasons, which you are all doubtless cognizant of. Among those reasons was one which Major Relph, the Chairman of the Highway Board, endeavoured—to use a mild term—to show was incorrect. It was this: “That at a parish meeting, very numerously attended, it was unanimously resolved that a sewer should be constructed through one of the main streets to carry off the sewage; that when this matter was brought before the Highway Board, consisting almost exclusively of farmers representing the surrounding rural parishes, the proposition was rejected.” Major Relph, in his letter to the Local Government Board, appealing against our obtaining the Act, says,—“a grave charge, if correct; whereas, if enquiry be made, I venture to say, as Chairman of the Highway Board, that the statement is the very reverse of truth.” Now, Mr. Relph, from what can be inferred from subsequent statements, grounds his assertions on the absence of any minute on the books of the Highway Board amounting to a refusal. At such meetings a great amount of detail is discussed, which is not entered

on the minutes. Mr. Watkins was chairman at the time, and he does not deny that it was stated at that meeting, that the Board had no power to make the drain; and Captain Gething, at a meeting a few months ago, when the question was put to him by Major Relph, said that he considered it was tantamount to a refusal. But let that pass, as well as Major Relph's technical objections. I have said this much to exonerate the committee from the imputations cast upon them. On Thursday, the 21st day of March, a meeting, which was numerously attended, after hearing a statement from myself, confirmed the reasons the committee had drawn up, and the Local Government Act was adopted. On the proposition of Mr. Griffin, it was resolved that Messrs. James Parker, J. H. Clark, James Jones, C. Stockham, Wm. Price, T. Dunn, O. Davies, H. Thomas, John Thomas, and others, with Mr J. F. Powell, churchwarden, be appointed to carry out the resolutions of the meeting. Little doubt was entertained but what the Local Government Board in London would accede to the almost unanimous wish of the inhabitants, until the 24th of April, when a letter was received from that Board stating that appeals had been entered against the adoption of the Act in Usk, and copies of letters from Major Relph, Chairman of the Highway Board, and from Mr. Keats, Clerk to that Board, were enclosed; and the letter from the Government asked at what place in the district of Usk an official inquiry could be most conveniently held. The result was, that on the 10th of July an inspector attended to hear evidence, whose expenses the parish had to pay, which inquiry was numerously attended, and the result sent to the Local Government Board. After the Board in London had taken time to consider the matter, on the 1st of October, Mr. Waddington, the Portreeve of the borough, received the following communication:—"I am to state that the Board have had under their consideration the proceedings in relation to the adoption of the Local Government

Act by the town and parish of Usk, and they regret that they are advised that, in consequence of the notice of the adoption having been signed by the Portreeve instead of the summoning officer, they would not be justified in publishing the notice of adoption in the *Gazette*. If, therefore, it still is the wish of the inhabitants of Usk that the Act should be adopted, there appears to be no alternative but to re-commence the proceedings." The committee then commenced the proceedings *de novo*, and, notwithstanding powerful influence has been levelled against us, I am happy to inform you that we have been gazetted, and we have a Local Board. I need scarcely remind this meeting of the several resolutions that have been passed by the ratepayers at their meetings condemning the opening of any of the old sewers, or constructing new ones, during the pending of the application for a Local Board, nor how the Highway Board and Board of Guardians have set at defiance your wishes. The present state of the streets is sufficient evidence as to the recklessness with which your money has been spent. You have now the Local Board, and you will have it in your power to spend your own money, instead of having it expended at the whims of others; and under this Board many great improvements will be carried out at little cost. The opposers to the Board may tell you that heavy expenses will be entailed by adopting it, but I can tell you, if you are judicious in selecting the members of that Board, you will reduce your rates. About £100 a year I believe to be sufficient to keep our roads in repair, and do some little improvements as well. I understand that already this year upwards of £190 have been taken out of your pockets, and probably a considerable additional sum will be called for before the expiration of the year. The persons who I understand will be proposed are all highly rated, or have property in the town, and it will be their interest to keep down expenses. However, if you are dissatisfied with them at the end of the first

year, a portion will go out of office, and you elect others in their stead.

Several meetings were afterwards held, and it was decided that the Board should comprise twelve members. At the first election on the 7th of February, 1873, fourteen persons were nominated and the following twelve were elected, viz :—Messrs. Alexander Waddington, James Jones, James Henry Clark, William E. Stephens, Oliver Davies, James Parker, Thomas Dunn, Charles Stockham, Charles Miller, Sidney Smith, Herbert Thomas, and John Hobbis. At their first meeting the members unanimously elected Mr. Waddington their chairman. In 1875, pipes were laid and the sewage which at that time flowed into the river was conveyed into tanks constructed in a field adjacent to the town, and when full after heavy rain the effluent water discharged itself into the river. This plan appeared to act satisfactorily to the inhabitants, but the Conservators of the river believing that the fish suffered from the impurity, lodged an objection to the disposal of the overflow into the river, and shortly afterwards the Rivers' Pollution Act became law, and the overflow pipes had to be removed.

Steps were taken to remedy the complaint, but on account of the fall from the upper of the town to the tanks being very few feet some difficulty has arisen with regard to the disposal of the effluent water.

Mr. Waddington, Chairman of the Local Board and Portreeve of Usk died on the 21st of May, 1874, and Mr. J. H. Clark, at the following meeting on the 6th of June was unanimously elected Chairman of the Board, which position he held for 13 years until June 1887, when he resigned the Chairmanship and his seat at the Board.



The Alms Houses.

AT a Vestry Meeting held on the 21st day of April, 1825, Mr. Thomas Howell in the chair, the following persons were appointed according to the 59th Geo. III. to constitute a Select Vestry :— Rev. Thomas Addams Williams, Vicar ; Jas. Blyth, Churchwarden ; William Evans and Wm. Hughes, Overseers ; Iltud Nicholl, Esq., Alexander Jones, Esq. Francis Mc.Donnell, Esq., John Shepard, Esq., Rev. James Barnard Davies, Isaac Williams, John Wigginton, Thomas Griffiths, Thomas Hawkins, Matthew Howell, John Williams, John George jun., William Thomas (Surgeon), Thomas West, John Howell, James Phillips James Price, William Edwards, and Isaac Parker. **It was Ordered :** That the Churchwardens and Overseers do apply to a Justice of the Peace to confirm this appointment.

April 22nd.—On this day the above order was confirmed under the hand and seal of Thomas A. Williams, Justice of the Peace.

August 5.—At a meeting duly called for this day the Vestry did not assemble owing to the unfavorable state of the weather. It was therefore adjourned to the following evening at the White Lion.

At the adjourned meeting Mr. Isaac Williams in the chair. **It was Ordered :** That the Vestry Clerk do Give Notice to the several persons composing the Select Vestry to request their attendance to take into consideration the propriety of selling a certain portion of the lands belonging to the poor of this town in the parish of Llangovan, or the site of the Poor Houses, and to apply the money arising therefrom in erecting a new Poor House, and that the said Meeting will be convened to the 18th instant, and also that a General Meeting of the Inhabitants

of the said town be also requested to attend to concur in the resolution of the Select Vestry for the purpose aforesaid.

September 15.—At a Meeting held this day, ***It was Resolved:*** That a General Meeting be convened for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of selling a part of the lands belonging to the said town, in the parish of Llangovan, and also the present Almshouse, and to apply the money arising therefrom in erecting new and convenient dwellings for the reception of the poor, and that the Churchwarden and Overseers do accordingly cause public notice to be given of the time and place of such meeting.

September 29.—At a Vestry Meeting held this day, having been duly published the two preceding Sundays immediately after Divine Service, for the purpose of carrying into effect the resolution of the last meeting respecting selling part of the Town land and other property therein mentioned, and applying the money arising therefrom for the use and comfort of the impotent poor of the said town.

It was Resolved: That it is the unanimous opinion of this Meeting, that the present houses, called “The Almshouses” in this town, both from the ruinous state and bad arrangement of the same are totally unfit for the residence of the poor.

Resolved: That it will be desirable to erect new Houses in lieu of those now standing.

Resolved: That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the practicability of effecting the sale of such part of the property now vested in this parish, as they shall judge requisite, and also the probable value of the same, and also take into consideration the most desirable place for erecting new Houses.

Resolved: That the Committee do consist of the following persons, viz :—Rev. Thomas Addams-

Williams, William Addams-Williams, Esq., Mr. Michael Davis, Mr. Evan Jones, Mr. Francis Morgan, Rev. James Barnard Davies, Alexander Jones, Esq. And that the above Committee do report their opinion to a Parish Meeting to be held on Thursday, the 20th day of October next, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

October 20.—At a Meeting held this day, present —Francis M'Donnell, Esq. (in the chair), Messrs. W. A. Williams, Iltyd Nicholl, J. B. Davies, John Pyrke, Francis Morgan, James Blyth, Evan Jones, Isaac Williams, William Edwards, John Wigginton, Thomas Howell, &c., &c.

The Committee presented to the Meeting the following Reports.

October 4th, 1825.—At a Committee Meeting held this day in pursuance of resolutions entered into at a Parish Meeting on the 29th of September, last,

The Committee having viewed certain parts of the property and considered the various points left to their determination, resolved to request a piece of ground in exchange from the Duke of Beaufort, for the purpose of building new Almshouses thereon, and that the Rev. James B. Davies should be deputed to consult Mr. Wyatt on the subject. Also that Mr. Evan Jones should prepare an estimate of the expense of erecting the new Houses according to a specification delivered to him, and that the Committee should meet on Tuesday, the 11th inst., at the King's Head at Ten o'clock in the morning.

(Signed) W. A. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

October 11th, 1825.—At a Committee Meeting held by adjournment this day. The Committee accompanied by Mr. Wyatt on the part of the Duke of Beaufort, viewed a plot of ground near the Priory porch which was considered as very favorably situated for erecting new Almshouses, and Mr.

Wyatt having offered to present to the Committee as much of the said piece of ground as they should judge requisite, the Committee determined on recommending the same for the afore-mentioned purpose.

And the Committee recommend the sale of the ground on which the present Alms-houses stand together with the garden attached to the same, and the Committee consider that the probable value of the same will be £400. They also recommend the sale of a piece of ground adjoining Mr. James Prichard's field, and they judge the value of it to be £65. Also a small field by Pontyclivon Bridge, the value of £60.

The Committee having considered that it would be desirable to reduce the income of the Parish as little as possible, do not recommend the sale of any more of the property, but rather advise that a subscription, together with a small rate, should be raised. And the Committee consider that the produce of the afore-mentioned property recommended to be sold will, with a small parish rate assisted by subscriptions, yield the sum of £700, which they are of opinion will be sufficient for the object required.

The Committee strongly recommend that the thanks of the parish be given to the Duke of Beaufort for his liberality in so readily agreeing to forward the object of the parish in presenting them with so valuable and desirable piece of ground, and that a resolution to that effect be entered on the parish book. Signed for the Committee by

WM. ADDAMS-WILLIAMS, Chairman.

It was resolved that the foregoing reports be approved of and carried into effect.

That the thanks of this meeting are due to His Grace the Duke of Beaufort for his liberality, and that William A. Williams, Esq., the Chairman of the Committee, he requested to transmit the same to His Grace.

That such Committee be requested to advertise the property intended to be sold for sale by auction,

on Friday, the 8th day of November next, by the circulation of hand-bills, and that they sell the same without reserve.

That such Committee be authorized to procure plans and specifications for new Almshouses, and to contract for the building of the same.

That the Committee, in making a contract for the sale, be at liberty to impose upon the purchaser such conditions for the pulling down of the present Almshouses, and as to any future buildings on or near the site as shall seem advisable to them for improving the appearance of the town.

January 12, 1826.—At a Meeting held at the Vestry on the 12th of January, 1826, ***It was ordered*** that the Churchwardens and Overseers be empowered to treat with such persons as may be disposed to rent any part of the poors' land belonging to the said town, viz.: The piece now in the occupation of Mr. John Shepard; the piece now in the occupation of Mr. William Palmer; and the piece now in the occupation of the Rev. J. B. Davies.

January 26, 1826.—At a Parish Meeting held January 26, 1826, the Committee having reported that the field adjoining Mr. James Prichard's field was sold for £56, and the field by Pantyclivon was sold for £80; and the Almshouses were bought in for £350, in consequence of which there appeared to be a considerable deficiency for the purpose required. It was the unanimous opinion of this meeting that the Committee proceed to sell by auction the said Almshouses, and the field now rented by the Rev. J. B. Davies, adjoining the river, in the parish of Usk. ***It was also resolved*** that the Committee be authorized to contract for the building of the Almshouses, and to take all necessary measures for effecting the same. At an adjourned meeting held this day at the King's Head, Chapel Well field was let to Mr. James Phillips for the term of three years, at the annual rent of £8, and that the field adjoining

be re-let to Mr. John Shepard for the term of three years, at the yearly rent of £8 10s.

November 25, 1826.—At a general Parish Meeting held this day, William Addams Williams, as Chairman of the Committee appointed to carry into effect the sale of the lands belonging to the parish and for erecting new Almshouses, instead of the houses recently disposed of, attended the meeting and produced an account of the monies received and paid by him for the use of the said town, of which the following is a copy :

The following is an account of the sums at which the Old Almshouses and Lands were sold by the Committee, under the direction of the Town, viz.:—

A small close of land, sold to Mr. Jas. Prichard	£	56
Ditto ditto to Mr. M'Donnell		80
A close of land, sold to Rev. D. L. Morton		300
Old Almshouses, to Messrs Jones & Morgan		235
		<hr/>
		£671
		<hr/>

The Committee having contracted with Messrs. Giles Williams and Son to erect the new Almshouses at £647, and an additional sum of £15 for extra range work in front of the street, the following is a statement of the account, viz ;—

W.A.WILLIAMS in account with G. Williams & Sons.

Dr.		£		
By amount of contract and extra work	.....	662		
Cr.				
1826.		£	s	d
May 1	To Cash on account ..	54	12	0
— 31	Ditto	100	0	0
July 1	Ditto	150	0	0
Aug.5	Ditto	142	8	0
Sept.8	Ditto	100	0	0
Oct.	Ditto	6	10	0
Nov.14	Ditto	103	10	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£662	0	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

November 14th, 1826.—This account was settled and approved and the balance of £108 10s. 0d. was paid to Giles Williams. (Signed) GILES WILLIAMS.

The following is a statement of the account between Mr. W. A. Williams and the Inhabitants of Usk.

Dr.		£	s.	d.
1826.	To paid Michael Davis for advertising and sundry other expenses attending the sale of the almshouses and lands in Usk, as per account	9	8	7
May 1.	To paid Giles Williams on account of building almshouses	54	12	0
„ 31.	To cash, further account...	100	0	0
July 1.	To ditto ditto ...	150	0	0
Aug. 5.	To ditto ditto ...	142	8	0
Sept. 8.	To ditto ditto ...	100	0	0
Oct.	To ditto ditto ...	6	10	0
Nov. 14.	To balance by contract ...	108	10	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£671	8	7

Cr.		£	s.	d.
1825. Nov.	By amount of purchase- money received of Mr. James Prichard	56	0	0
	The like of Mr. M'Donnell ...	80	0	0
1826. Feb.	The like of Mr. Evan Jones and Mr. Francis Morgan	235	0	0
	The like of Mr. Morton	300	0	0
	Balance to Mr. Williams.....	0	8	7
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£671	8	7

It also appeared, from an account produced by Mr. W. A. Williams, that the said Giles Williams & Sons had performed extra work at the said alms-

houses, in making cupboards, finding lead for gutters, putting up gates, sinking and walling a well, &c., &c., amounting together to £26 10s. 1d; the said Giles Williams & Sons had received from Mr. Williams the sum of £15 14s. 10d. on account of the said extra work, leaving a balance due to them of £4 15s. 1d., viz.:

1826. DR.	£	s.	d.
Nov. 14. To balance of account settled with Giles Williams, as above	0	8	7
To paid Giles Williams on account of his bill for extra work.....	15	14	10
	<hr/> £16 13 5 <hr/>		

1826. CR.	£	s.	d.
Nov. 14. By interest from Mr. M'Donnell and Rev. Mr. Morton.....	4	8	5
By subscriptions received	11	15	0
	<hr/> £16 13 5 <hr/>		

The foregoing accounts were therefore passed, and the several vouchers produced were examined and delivered up by Mr. Williams.

The Committee having reported that the almshouses were sold for £235, and the field rented by the Rev. J. B. Davies had been sold for £300, it appears that there still remains a deficiency to defray the expenses incurred for the extra work done and to be done at the said almshouses, and preparing the contract, &c. It is, therefore, the unanimous opinion of this meeting and **hereby ordered** that the Committee proceed to sell by auction to the highest bidder the field beyond Pontyclifon, in the parish of Llangeview, called "The Brick Yard Field;" that the said field be advertised for sale on

Friday, the 1st day of December next, at four o'clock in the afternoon, by the circulation of handbills; and that the same be sold without reserve.

In 1883, Mr. Clark, as Chairman of the Local Board, called the attention of the public to the state of these almshouses. They were getting into dilapidation; and the sleeping apartments, having stone flooring, were damp, and it was an act of cruelty to put poor aged people, many of them afflicted with rheumatism, to inhabit such rooms. There are certain lands left to the poor of Usk, which bring in nearly £30 per annum, which has for many years been paid into the general fund of the Pontypool Union, and as it was the desire of a portion of the inhabitants that some of this annual income should be expended in keeping the houses in repair, and kept in the hands of the Overseers and Churchwardens, instead of being paid into the Union, for that purpose, especially as the houses were built from the proceeds of the sale of property belonging to the poor, upon ground given by His Grace the Duke of Beaufort. This may be thought by some to be easily accomplished, but the law relating to the poor has undergone great changes since the almshouses were built, and it has been stated that the proceeds of all property belonging to paupers should be paid into the hands of the Guardians of the Union. There has been such a disposition shewn of late by the fatherly Government, to take Charity Trusts into their own hands, and divert the money from the purposes intended by the legators, that it is rather surprising that persons should bequeath money for charitable purposes. However, some have faith that the money they leave will be applied according to their wishes, and among that number was Mrs. M'Gowan, who is stated to have left the reversion of a large sum to the poor of Usk, at the death of her nieces. Mrs. M'Gowan, *née* Miss Pritchard, resided in the town of Usk for the greater part of her life, and, until her marriage, was pro-

priestress of the Three Salmon's Hotel. She ever entertained a kindly feeling towards the poor of the town, among whom she had been associated from an early age, and at her death, in 1878, bequeathed her property as above stated, to twelve poor aged females of Usk, and the disposal of it to be vested in the Vicar and Churchwardens for the time being. Such being the case it is very desirable that the almshouses should be kept in a proper state of repair, and be available for the reception of the recipients of Mrs. M'Gowan's bounty.

The Medical Inspector to the Local Board, in February, 1885, in his report, says: "I reported to you the unfavourable state of the closets in the almshouses, making one of the habitations unhealthy, and the defective supply of water, and am sorry that these have not been attended to by the Local Board or Board of Guardians."

Again in April the Medical Officer states in his report: "Nothing having been done for the closet and pump at the almshouse, and Reece's house being polluted with gas, I advise his removal into an adjoining house, now vacant."

The Chairman of the Board stated that he had prepared a statement respecting the state of the almshouses. There was an annual income of from £20 to £30 derived from land at Llangoven and Usk, which had been left to the poor, and he was of opinion that a portion of that sum should be applied to the improvement of the habitations of the poor. The statement he had made he purposed forwarding to the Local Government Board, in reply to a letter received from that Board on the subject of the nuisances not having been abated, and a copy would also be sent to the Poor Law Commissioners.

On the 1st of July the Medical Officer again reported as follows: "Gentlemen,—I beg to report that the nuisances injurious to health before reported to your Board and the Board of Guardians, still remain unremedied, and are very injurious to health.

Indeed there is one case of illness in the almshouses now that would look to have been caused by breathing the bad air."

The following reply to a communication was sent to the Local Government Board :—

GENTLEMEN,—I have deferred replying to your communication, respecting the report of the Medical Inspector to the Usk Local Board, until I could ascertain what steps would be taken by the Guardians of the Poor of the Pontypool Union, in removing the closet nuisance complained of at the Poor-houses at Usk.

The closet is undoubtedly in a bad state and as the Poor-houses contain rooms for six males and six females, it is desirable that there should be two closets; but as the Guardians of the Union have hitherto absorbed in the Poor Rates the whole of the rents arising from lands belonging to the Poor of Usk parish, and have refused to allow the expense of cleaning out the closet, the Local Board had no other resource than to cleanse it on one or two occasions.

As there is a yearly revenue of nearly £30 derived from lands belonging to the Poor of this parish, I think the cost of remedying the nuisance, as well as keeping the habitations in repair, ought to be discharged out of the rents.

In 1825 the original poor houses in Usk were in the principal street, and at that time in a very dilapidated condition. It was, therefore, thought necessary to dispose of the ruins and build new houses. His Grace the Duke of Beaufort made a present of the land for the purpose near the Church, and with the amount received from the old building and the sale of two or three pieces of land belonging to the poor, the present houses were built. Until the new Poor Law came in force, the houses were kept in repair out of the proceeds of the land, but when the Guardians of the Union became the recipients of the rents, the houses were allowed to get out of repair, and it now becomes necessary that a considerable sum should be expended in erecting closets and repairing the habitations.

These matters having become urgent, a parish meeting was held on the 22nd of this month, when the accompanying resolutions were unanimously passed. [See report of meeting.]

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JAMES HENRY CLARK,

Chairman of the Local Board,

To the Local Government Board, Whitehall.

It was found that the nuisance could not be allowed to remain longer on the premises, and a meeting of the parishioners was called, at which the following resolution was passed :—

At a Parish Meeting, held May 22nd, 1885, in the Vestry of Usk Church, the Vicar in the chair, it was proposed by Mr. A. J.

Shepard, seconded by Mr. Mundy, and passed unanimously—
 “The ratepayers of Usk assembled in vestry desire to make a strong representation to the Board of Guardians concerning the sanitary arrangements of the houses of the poor situated in Usk. A sum of about £30, annually derived from land, devised to the poor of Usk, would have been available for the purpose of keeping the pump and closets in repair, but this money now falls into the Poor Rates. It is hereby represented that the Guardians might use some of the money left for the poor of Usk specially to remedy the present disgraceful state of the closets attached to the poor houses, which is likely, if longer neglected, to become a source of disease. Mr. Adolphus Parker, guardian for Usk, is requested to bring this resolution before the Board of Guardians.”
 The following resolution was proposed by Miss E. Carbonell, seconded by Mr. W. Jones—We, the ratepayers in vestry assembled, hereby authorize the overseer to pay the Secretary of the Local Board £25 of the money devised to the poor of Usk now handed over to the Poor Law authorities. Such money to be applied to the re-building of the closets attached to the poor houses in Usk and other sanitary objects connected with them.

Signed for the meeting,

STEPHEN C. BAKER, Vicar.

The Local Board also sent the following :—

To the Guardians of the Pontypool Union and the Overseers of the Parish of Usk.

Take Notice, that under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, the Local Board for the district of Usk, being the Urban Sanitary Authority for such district, being satisfied of the existence of a nuisance at the almshouses in Usk, arising from closets, so foul or in such a state as to be a nuisance and injurious to health, do hereby require you within 21 days from the service of this notice to abate the same, and for that purpose to empty and cleanse such closets and make good cesspool thereto. If you make default complying with the requisitions of this notice, or if the said nuisance, though abated, is likely to recur, a summons will be issued requiring your attendance to answer a complaint which will be made to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for enforcing the abatement of the nuisance, and prohibiting a recurrence thereof and for recovering the costs and penalties that may be incurred thereby.

Dated this 3rd day of July, 1885.

HENRY A. ADDIS, Clerk.

This year the Medical Officer sent in the following report :—

“To the Sanitary Authority.—Gentlemen,—I beg to report that during the year 1885, we have had our usual immunity from zymotic or epidemic diseases, while in some of the towns in this

County there have been very serious attacks of small-pox and scarlet fever. I have met with no case nor heard of any such in the Usk Urban District, and on carefully looking over the Registrar's reports there is no single instance recorded of a death from any kind of fever whatever. It is true that our population is not large or over-crowded, but this is a favourable contrast to the state of things that I can remember in Usk, when the sewage ran on the surface in Maryport-street, and deaths were not unusual then from typhus and enteric fevers. There is no doubt but that the improved sanitary condition of our town, in common with others, has told very decidedly in diminishing sickness and mortality, and if an epidemic should come it will be of a milder type and less fatal. Another matter of moment is water for drinking and other purposes, the importance of which the community is becoming pretty sharp on, recognising, its being pure as of the first moment to health. Hence I have been repeatedly asked to examine and test water from many wells during the year just passed, and have in most instances found the alarm to arise from a temporary and not injurious cause, such as the flushing of the springs after a period of drought, or neglect where there is an open well. In my opinion all wells should be closed and have iron pumps. Formerly I used to meet with many cases of tainted water, unfit for use, from pollution, the head of the carrying-off drain being too near the well, but now the stench-trap is generally put a couple of yards distant, and safety assured. The people have become more careful in these matters, and beyond doubt this foresight tends to a healthier life, which is to all most desirable. . . . I think altogether a favourable year has been passed; the death-rate being under 14 per 1,000 of the population. The state of almshouses, as reported, still continues, excepting an improvement from the ventilating pipe, but I am glad to see there is now a certain prospect of our remedying and abating the nuisances complained of before the hot season returns, and I shall be glad to aid thereto. During the year I have received several times instructions (Orders in Council) as to cholera, and have made periodic visits and inspections of cottages and blocks of premises in Church-street, Ash-street, Lower Mill, and other parts of the Urban Sanitary District, and given advice and instructions where necessary; and I have also visited and inspected the fish-mongers, bakers, and all other places of trade and business, but found nothing detrimental to complain of requiring a special report to your Board. Herewith I beg to forward the Tables A and B of sickness and mortality for the year 1885, and remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant, A. J. SHEPARD.

Feb. 2, 1886."

Notwithstanding the voice of the parish at the Meeting of the Parishioners given on May 22nd, Messrs. Slade and Taylor, Overseers, acted in defiance of the resolution, and proceeded to erect two closets, connecting the same with the Priory wall, and sinking a cesspool without any connection with the sewers, despite the solicitor's caution to desist from the encroachment.

General Barnard, the occupier of the Priory Grounds, finding a great nuisance to arise from these closets, which had been built on a portion of the Priory wall, sent a letter to the Chairman of the Local Board, making a formal complaint.

February 19th, 1887.—A vestry meeting, convened by the Overseers for the purpose of taking into consideration the question of the disputed wall at the Almshouses, was held in the Vestry at the Parish Church, on this day, when the Vicar (Rev. S. C. Baker) presided, and there were also present—Messrs. J. J. Edwards and E. H. Smith (overseers), O. Jenkins (assistant overseer), John O. Nicholas, E. Parry, William Jones, John Davies, T. J. Smith, W. Taylor, James Jones, John Mullett, James Paine, James Trehearne, James Nicholas, Michael Sullivan, E. Brown, James Paine, junr., William Thomas, junr., William Williams, James Williams, James Blakemore, George Mundy, Edgar Thomas, J. Preece, David Prothero, and David Hutchings. The Vicar having read the notice calling the meeting, Mr. E. H. Smith, as one of the overseers, said they had met that evening for the consideration of the dispute respecting the wall and closets at the almshouses. The closets were erected by their predecessors, Messrs. Taylor and Slade. An objection was made at the time, but nothing further came of it until the present overseers took office, when they heard from Mr. Watkins, who asked them to remove the nuisance. Subsequently they received notices from the surveyor and inspector of nuisances to the Local Board, on the 3rd and 9th August, 1886, respecting the buildings giving 21 days in which to abate the nuisance, by filling up the cess-pit and connecting the closets with the sewer, and stating that a summons would be taken out against them in default. After having written to General Barnard, an appointment to meet him and Mr. Watkins was made, and the overseers offered to remove a piece of wall which projected, and which was the only cause for complaint that they could see, but General Barnard demanded that the closets should be removed, or he should take steps to remove them. Mr. Watkins also said they should wait no longer about the matter. It seemed, however, they did wait, for it was not until the previous week that the work of demolition began. The wall was claimed as belonging to the Priory, and that, therefore, the overseers had no right whatever to connect the building with it. After further remarks, on the proposition of Mr. John Nicholas, seconded by Mr. James Williams, it was unanimously resolved to appoint a sub-committee to inquire into the proprietorship of the wall, and that they should have power to examine all documents bearing upon the subject in the custody of any one who may have them, and the meeting was adjourned to the 3rd March.

March 3rd, 1887.—The adjourned Vestry meeting was held this day for the purpose of considering the progress made by the Sub-Committee appointed to obtain information respecting the disputed wall at the Almshouses. The Vicar (Rev. S. C. Baker)

was unable to attend, and Mr. James Jones was appointed Chairman. The parishioners present consisted of nearly the same as at the former meeting. Mr. J. J. Edwards said Mr. Verrinder, the Duke of Beaufort's agent, had been written to, enquiring if he had a register of any land given by the Duke, and he had replied that he had not. They could bring forward an old inhabitant who well remembered the almshouses being built, and who was prepared to state that the wall was built at the same time and of similar material as the almshouses. They had been making enquiries and knew three or four persons whom they could apply to for information, but the time had proved too short to enable them to obtain it. Mr. J. O. Nicholas considered it possible to obtain more evidence of that nature, and suggested the further adjournment of the meeting for a fortnight to enable those persons to be communicated with. Mr. John Davies said if they could get some of the papers of the 'Squire of Llangibby Castle they would probably have all the information respecting how and when the wall was built. Mr. W. Jones remarked that those who remembered the old 'Squire knew him to be too shrewd and business-like to go and build upon other people's walls. After further discussion it was unanimously resolved, on the proposition of Mr. W. Thomas, junr., seconded by Mr. John Davies to call a vestry meeting on the following Thursday, to take into consideration the advisability of the overseers employing a solicitor to act for them in the matter.

March 10th, 1887.—A vestry meeting called for the purpose of considering the desirability of employing a solicitor to take up the case, on behalf of the parish, respecting the property dispute and other matters in connection with the almshouses, was held this day. Mr. E. H. Smith said the only matter which the overseers had to state was that, as they were all aware, the old 'Squire of Llangibby had the management of the affairs of the almshouses at the time of their erection, and they thought the present 'Squire might have some papers bearing upon the subject, therefore they had written to him concerning it, but had received no answer. Mr. William Jones subsequently proposed: "That this meeting authorise the overseers for the time being of the parish of Usk to consult a solicitor respecting the disputed ownership of the wall between the Priory and the almshouses." Mr. John Davies seconded this, and it was carried unanimously. The meeting was then adjourned to Thursday next, when the overseers will report the result of the interview with a solicitor, the selection being left to them.

March 17th, 1887.—The meeting adjourned from last week was held this day for the purpose of receiving the report of the overseers respecting the interview with a solicitor with regard to the almshouse dispute. Mr. J. J. Edwards reported that the overseers had been in communication with a respectable firm of solicitors respecting the wall, and they were of opinion that theirs was decidedly a good case, there being three courses which might be adopted, each of which would be successful. It was suggested that the owners of the Priory property should be written to as a matter of courtesy before any legal steps were taken. After considerable discussion, Mr. W. Thomas, junr., proposed: "That the overseers

be authorised by this meeting to communicate with the owners.

On the following Thursday J. J. Edwards and John Davies were nominated overseers at the vestry and afterwards appointed.

USK CHARITIES.

On July 14, 1887, a Meeting took place in compliance with a requisition from a number of ratepayers to the overseers, "In order to make regulations or ascertain any existing regulations, from custom or otherwise, for insuring the proper comfort conduct, and quiet of the inmates, who are, or shall be, duly elected to the poor house, commonly called Almshouses, in the parish of Usk, and to take steps for carrying out the same and securing the future welfare and supervision of the inmates."—The Vicar (the Rev. S. C. Baker), who presided, said it was well known to most of them that there had been a great deal of trouble and disquiet at the almshouses in consequence of some young fellows going in there intoxicated and making a disturbance. They had met together, therefore, to make regulations with respect to the matter, as much disquiet had arisen in consequence of one of the inmates having had her two sons with her, and another inmate had a daughter, without any special permission having been given them for the purpose. No other persons had a right to live there but those elected by the vestry, and those whom it was considered right to let live with them.—Mr. John Davies, overseer, said there were 13 persons elected to the 12 houses, and there were 23 occupying them. After the names of the elected inmates had been read over, Mr. W. C. Carbonell said the first thing for them to do would be to put down the names of those really entitled to live in the almshouses. He moved the following resolution: "That the following list of duly elected inmates now by permission of the vestry resident in the almshouses at Usk, with the dates of their several elections be placed in the minutes:—1, Ann Bayton, elected July 5, 1867—2, Elizabeth Evans, March 22, 1877—3, Temperance Howell, June 22, 1882—4, Thomas Phillips, Oct. 5, 1882—5, Eliza Jones March 1, 1883—6, Ann Dibbins, Nov. 29, 1883—7, Marg. Griffiths, Feb. 14, 1884—8, Leonard Rees, May 29, 1884—9, Mary A. Roberts, July 24, 1884—10, John Mason, Oct. 14, 1886—11, Edwd. Willets, Nov. 25, 1886." Mr. Carbonell added that if no regulations had before existed it was quite time that the houses should be regulated now.—Mr. A. Parker, poor-law guardian, seconded.—Mr. Parry objected, on the ground that the overseers should have had the complaint laid before them as overseers, instead of the matter being brought forward by outsiders, and "cut and dried" statements presented. The Vicar asked if he was an outsider? and explained that the resolution was simply for the purpose of having the names of the inmates of the almshouse concisely before them instead of having to go through the minute book for 20 years to find them.—A warm discussion followed—Mr. Davies said "It was only a lot of tattle, and if there were no receivers of tattle there would be no tattlers."—Mr. Edwards said no complaints had been received from the inmates. If they had come to the overseers, they would have got a policeman and turned out the unruly ones; he objected to the resolution, as it would exclude those from the almshouses who had permission to live there, but the permission had not been put on the minute book. The proposition was negatived by 15 to 14 votes.

A written complaint respecting the disturbances, signed by several ratepayers, was then handed to the overseers.

THE USK CHARITIES.



A Charity Commission Inspector at Usk.

On Wednesday morning, July 25, 1888, at eleven o'clock, William Good, Esq, one of the Inspectors of the Charity Commissioners, held a public enquiry at the Three Salmon's Hotel, Usk, relative to the endowed charities subsisting in the parish; and into the foundations, endowments, and objects of such charities respectively; and their present circumstances and condition; and whether any, and what improvements, can be made in their management or application; and to receive evidence concerning the same.

The following were the parishioners and persons interested, present:—The Revs. S. C. Baker (vicar), W. Jones (curate), W. Price (vicar of Llanrwym and Warthacwm); Major Lane, Messrs. A. J. Shepard, Thomas Watkins, James Henry Clark, E. Waddington, James Parker, Sidney A. Hiley, James Jones, S. Smith, D. Lawrence, C. H. Voyce, F. G. Harris, J. H. Priestley, J. T. Cherry, W. Billingham, James Davies, G. Edmunds, W. Davies (Woodbine), W. Nixon, George Mundy, D. Daw, W. Morgan, W. H. Slade, T. Rees, Oliver Jenkins, E. H. Smith, John Davies (Castle-street), W. Jones (shoemaker) J. J. Edwards, T. J. Smith, J. Paine, F. Jennings, J. O. Nicholas, and J. Mullett; Deaconess Eleanor, Mrs Dunn, and Mrs Phillips.

THE USK GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOUNDATION.

This Branch of Roger Edwards' Charity was first inquired into. The following Governors were present:—Rev S. C. Baker, Messrs. T. Watkins, (Chairman); J. H. Clark, (Vice-Chairman); A. J. Shepard, S. A. Hiley, James Jones, Sidney Smith, and H. C. Griffin.

After going through the scheme in connection with the Grammar School Branch, the Inspector asked if the Governors had carried out their duties strictly in accordance with that scheme, and he was answered in the affirmative.

In reply to the Inspector, Mr Watkins said the doles mentioned in the scheme, were continued to the recipients who were recipients at the time of the scheme; as they died out, the money reverted to the Charity. They were looked upon as annuitants. The amount payable now was £21.

Mr F. G. Harris (clerk to the Charity) remarked that the doles were paid in two instalments—at Midsummer and Christmas.

Mr James Jones thought one of the recipients—Ann Morgan—was disqualified by not living in the town, but

The Inspector pointed out that the scheme provided that the doles should be paid to "Such persons as are legal subjects of charity *who are receiving the same.*"

With regard to the three-tenths of the income of the Charity, which had been given in aid of the National School. Mr Hiley, a Governor, said it occurred to him that the money would be more properly applied to the Grammar School, which was short of funds at the present time, to provide a second master.

The Inspector pointed out that if the scheme directed that one thing should be done with the money, it must not be put to other uses. The scheme read that the Trustees should divide it into ten equal parts, and that one of such parts should be applied for the support of a school, or schools, for the education of the children of the labouring and industrial population of Usk; and that they should be at liberty to continue the gifts of money doles to such poor persons then receiving the same to the extent of other two parts, after the decease of whom it should be applied by the Trustees, at their discretion, to other charitable purposes. It was true that the Trustees at their discretion could do as Mr. Hiley wished, but it would be a hard thing to cut off those annuities.

Mr Watkins, a trustee, said that Mr Hiley's opinion was not that of the Governors in general.

Mr Hiley contended that there was a mis-appropriation of the funds, and would be more properly applied in furthering the Grammar School, which was a memorial of Roger Edwards' charity to Usk. He thought it had a distinct claim before any other school.

In reply to the Inspector, Mr Hiley said that elementary schools should be supported by rates or otherwise. If the school was ordered to be supported by rates, and Charity money was applied to the school, it would be a relief to the ratepayers; and under such circumstances, it was a relief to the rich, and not to the poor. He would respect the wishes of the donor if he intended that a portion of the charity should be applied to go towards making a provision for elementary education. He should contend that they would be carrying out the provisions of Roger Edwards' will by establishing exhibitions to children at that school, to enable them to gain a superior education free, by drafting them to the Grammar School after finishing at the National School.

The Vicar expressed himself as being a great friend and supporter of the Grammar School, but still he was exceed-

ingly anxious the funds of the elementary school should not be unnecessarily diminished. (Applause).

With regard to the income of the Head Master of the Grammar School, it was stated that the minimum capitation grant of £2 a year for each boy was allowed him.

The Inspector said the maximum amount (£4) was generally paid, but it was remarked that, for the benefit of the people of the neighbourhood, it was found not to be advisable to fix that amount.

After the list of the Trustees was read, Mr E. H. Smith asked if a Governor appointed by the Local Board would vacate that position on being no longer a member of that Board? Mr Watkins said he would not.

Mr Watkins said the last cutting of timber to realise, took place in 1879 and 1880. He believed all the farms of the Charity were in good condition.

It was also stated that they were all properly let and kept in tenantable order. They were let by tender. The buildings were repaired up to the present requirements. Were the income larger, a greater amount could be laid out on the buildings. There were no encroachments upon the woods, and the tenants had the privilege of the game to be found upon them (which was not much) as well as the fishing rights. There was about half a mile of water, and it had been previously let for £2, but it had since been let by tender for £5 5s. for the tenant.

The Inspector asked if the Governors ought not to make the tenant pay more rent in consequence of these privileges, but Mr Watkins stated that they were making an abatement of £10 per annum to the tenant up to the time he received them.

The Inspector: You have extorted as much as you can out of him, then? (Laughter.)

Mr Watkins: He thinks we have extorted too much.

The Grammar School premises were in a satisfactory state as far as the Governors knew.

The Inspector thought they were in tenantable order, but he did not think the master—Mr. Priestley—would object to a little more paint. As to that, however, they must be as liberal as they could afford to be.

The accommodation, it was stated, was made for 25 pupils.

The number of boys at present on the register was 28, whose ages ranged from ten to sixteen years, and who paid £1 per term. There were two boarders from Abersychan.

Dr Lawrence said he wished to ask a question for his own information. The Inspector had said that the school fees to be paid were from £3 to £6, and the capitation grant from £2 to £4. Was it in the power of the Governors to increase that amount?

The Inspector stated that it was in the power of the

Governors to allow the Master from £2 to £4 per boy, but he only received £2.

Dr Lawrence asked why the amount was not increased. It would be a vast improvement if the Master were better paid, and it was one of the greatest faults for the master not to be sufficiently paid.

The Inspector said he thought they had sufficient knowledge of the Charity to understand that the Governors could not afford to increase the capitation grant. They would be very glad, no doubt, and it was their wish, to improve the position of the Master in every possible way, and to render the school as attractive as possible, to benefit the whole town; and if people would come forward, and augment the funds of the Charity, that would be the way of improving it. He was afraid otherwise the increase could not be made, for in these times of agricultural depression there would be a less amount for the Governors to control in the future than in the past. They must endeavour to improve the endowments of the School, and it depended upon their own local ingenuity and exertions.

Mr James Jones said if the fees were raised, the school would decrease.

Mr Clark also stated that it was best for the minimum fee to be paid as it had been proved thereby more beneficial to the town and neighbourhood.

In concluding the enquiry on this portion of the Charity, the Inspector remarked that the Master of the Grammar School was exerting himself to the utmost to improve the School, and had increased the number of scholars from 7 to 28, which was very good, considering that he had only occupied the position for two years.

It was generally considered that this state of affairs was very satisfactory.

THE COUNTRY BRANCH—COEDCWNWR ALMSHOUSES.

The Trustees of the Almshouse and Trelay Branches of Roger Edwards' Charity, present were:—Rev. Stephen Cattley Baker (Chairman), Mr. Thomas Watkins (Vice-Chairman), Rev W. Price, Messrs. James Henry Clark, James Parker, Evelyn Waddington, and Major Bowyer-Lane.

In considering this part of Roger Edwards' Charity, it was stated that there was a vacancy at the Coedcwnwr Almshouse, which, in consequence of insufficiency of funds could not be filled.

Mr Harris stated that there were eleven inmates at the present time, ten of whom were in receipt of alms and one who was allowed to occupy an empty house but received no alms.

The Inspector pointed out that the scheme provided for the filling up of vacancies "as soon as conveniently may be," a notice of the vacancy being published before the expiration of one calendar month from the vacancy.

Mr Watkins said they had no funds with which to be able to fill up the vacancy.

The Inspector supposed what they meant to say was that it was not "convenient" for them to fill it, but that they would do so when the convenient time had arrived.

It was remarked that that was so.

The Inspector stated that Mr Clark very kindly conducted him to Ceedcwnnw on the previous day, and together they examined the premises. The roof was defective, the walls were defective, the pump was defective, and the sanitary arrangements were unsatisfactory. There was no complaint of the water. The plastering and stone work over the back house was gone altogether, the wall of the stable was cracked, and the Matron thought it was in a dangerous condition, but they thought it was quite safe. A railing was wanted to protect a window from the cattle.

Mr Clark remarked that the complaints appeared formidable, but in reality all could be remedied for about 30s.

The Inspector said he would just draw their attention to them, so that they might be remedied at the first convenient opportunity.

Mr Harris stated that with respect to the sanitary arrangements, sanitary pipes had been laid down in the place of old ones recently.

The Inspector replied that there were not enough of them laid down.

The Inspector said there was a chaplain, medical officer, and matron to keep the inmates of the almshouse in order : they ought to be in an admirable state.

The medical officer (Mr A. J. Shepard), said he had pointed out the sanitary condition of the almshouses to the Sanitary Inspector. The water from the pump was contaminated, but there was no need for the occupants to use it, as there was now a good supply from another source. It would be a good plan to do away with the pumps altogether.

The Inspector asked if he thought the condition of the houses was good enough. He supposed it was good enough for Llangwm, but would Dr Shepard build a modern almshouse in that way, without proper day and night accommodation? Could not the present state of things be improved? They might keep a room vacant a little longer so as to make the houses more suitable with the money saved. They ought to be fit for human beings to live in, for that was what the occupants were. However, the attention of the Trustees having been drawn to these matters, he hoped they would be remedied. The ages of the occupants of the almshouses ranged from 70 to 86 years : whatever the sanitary arrangements were, it did not seem to interfere with their vitality.

Mr Shepard stated that as Medical Officer, he visited the almshouses occasionally, and also when sent for. He gave the inmates not only advice, but supplied medicine and drugs.

It was stated that no regular visiting committee was in existence, but the Rev S. C. Baker thought it would be desirable to have one.

From the report of an enquiry held in 1861, respecting the Charity, the Inspector stated that a dreadful state of affairs seemed then to have been in existence. They had been put a stop to, he presumed.

The Vicar having perused the report, stated that there was nothing of that kind existing now.

Referring to the property of this branch of the Charity, the Inspector said, with Mr Clark, he, on the previous day, paid a visit to the largest farm—that of Alty-billa, Llangoview—and they thought the building was in a very bad state. It occurred to Mr Clark that they might very properly pull down a portion of it, because the tenant did not want the whole of it, to repair the other part.

The Inspector, however, remarked that they must take into consideration their financial position.

Mr Harris said the tenant seemed perfectly satisfied with the repairs.

The Inspector asked Mr Clark if that seemed to be the case on the previous day, and he was answered in the negative.

Mr Clark said there were some sheds which the tenant never used, and he thought by pulling them down, they could, with the materials, repair the other parts. There were large holes in the floors of the building in several places.

The Inspector remarked on the oak winding steps in the centre of the building, and observed that Mr Clark, their local historian, had omitted to mention in his history of the place, those old relics of a decaying mansion of 300 years ago. The steps were apparently in as perfect order to-day, as when first placed there 300 years ago.

Mr Watkins remarked that that was the residence of Roger Edwards.

The Rev S. C. Baker stated that they required a little variation in the scheme with regard to the number to form a quorum. The number of Trustees had been diminished from 14 to 10, but the quorum remained with the original number of 5. He suggested that this should be reduced to three, as there had frequently been no meetings held when convened, in consequence of their being unable to form a quorum.

No objection was raised to this suggestion, and the Inspector promised to report it.

The accounts of the Almshouse Branch for the past year were then considered.

The Inspector stated that the law required that a copy of the accounts should be laid before the Churchwardens to be laid before the vestry, entered in the minute book, and to be open for inspection.

It appeared that this had not been done in the past, but it was remarked that the accounts could have been seen had any one wished to inspect them.

THE USK ALMSHOUSES.

The Inspector read the report of the former Commissioner's enquiry about 50 or 60 years ago. There were at that time, till 1826, twelve small tenements in Bridge-street, which were occupied by persons living rent free, the revenue of the Charity coming from certain lands in various parishes in the neighbourhood, but it was not known

how the Charity originated. In 1826 the present almshouses at Usk were built with the proceeds of the sale of the tenements in Bridge-street.

The Inspector asked who had the control of the almshouses, to whom did they belong, and what was the governing or managing body? The land for the houses was given by the Duke of Beaufort in 1826. Was there any conveyance of the land?

It was stated that no one knew of any conveyance, Mr J. J. Edwards, late overseer, had written respecting it, but nothing satisfactory had been elicited.

Mr Edwards was only aware of the fact that, by the parish books, there was a gift.

The Inspector said that was merely a record of the Duke's gift. It was a *bona fide* gift, he presumed, and no one thought of disturbing it. There was a title to it by possession now.

Mr James Jones remembered that some years ago, when some claim was made to be able to sell the almshouses, the Duke of Beaufort said he gave the land and it could not be sold.

The Inspector: This land was given by the Duke. Who to?

Mr James Jones: I think to the Overseers of the Poor.

The Inspector remarked that he (Mr Jones) did not know, he only thought so, and he considered it would be very desirable to vest it in the Official Trustees of Charity Funds.

Mr Clark said the land was given to a committee of which Mr William Addams-Williams was chairman and treasurer.

The Inspector said the legal estate was somewhere, and it was desirable that it should be vested in some one, and this could be done without any, or at an inappreciable, expense, and a local body should take it as a governing body. In fact, the whole of the Charity should be properly looked after.

Mr Watkins remarked that he was of the same opinion.

Deaconess Eleanor stated that the Almshouses were occupied by 12 members elected, but there were several who had not been elected.

A paper with the names and dates of the election of the occupants was produced by Deaconess Eleanor and handed to the Inspector.

The Deaconess said that with Elizabeth Evans, one of the inmates, was residing a grand daughter.

The Vicar said the grand daughter was there in the place of the daughter who had been allowed by the Vestry.

The Deaconess said she had not been elected however. There was only one small bedroom about 8 ft. square. In the regulations for inmates it was provided that no one should be allowed to remain in the Almshouse but the elected of the rate-payers in Vestry assembled.

After some further discussion as to the rules, the Inspector said by custom and usage the parish officials had had the ruling of the charity, and the parishioners had thought fit to lay down certain regulations—very likely the wisest course they could have adopted—but still they were not authoritative. Those things were done by sufferance. It was a very bad system, and the sooner

put a stop to the matter. And perhaps it would be better to adopt the scheme sent to the Commissioners by the late Overseers.

The second person in the Almshouse having others with her was Mary Ann Morgan, who had her daughter and grand-child.

In reply to a question it was stated that the rooms at the Almshouses were about 6ft. by 8ft.

The Inspector asked how it was the Vestry allowed three persons to live together in the Almshouse like that.

It was replied that there seemed to have been no power on the part of the Vestry to enforce their regulations.

The Inspector said they assumed authority to put the inmates into the house, why could they not have power to turn them out?

Eliza Jones, an inmate, had a companion named Esther Roberts, who went into the Almshouse with her, and continued to live with her. This had not been by the Vestry's direction.

The Vicar said Eliza Jones was helpless, and required a companion.

The Inspector: There is no objection to that if they can squeeze in?

The Deaconess said of course the Almshouse was over-crowded, and that it was not right.

Deaconess Eleanor also complained that Margaret Griffiths, an inmate had occasionally her two sons in the Almshouse with her. They had taken a house, now, however, in Old Market street, but still they were living in the alms-house and stopped there at night.

Mr James Davies also said the men were at the Almshouse at all hours of the day.

Deaconess Eleanor believed the men had rented a house as stated, but George Griffiths had slept at the Almshouse during the last fortnight, and last week he was turned off the premises in a state of drunkenness by a policeman.

Mr T. Rees, in answer to the Inspector, stated that he was the agent for the house taken by George Griffiths, and he knew the other brother had been living at the same house. They were both of them labouring men.

The Inspector: They were both addicted to intemperate habits. I won't say drunkards, but were they? (Laughter, and a voice, Yes).

Deaconess Eleanor said Mary Ann Roberts took with her into the Almshouse her son John, a boy then of about 12 years of age and now of about 17. She had since had her daughter with her.

In reply to the Inspector, the Deaconess said there was a great objection in this case, but she must say that the daughter had conducted herself more properly lately.

Deaconess Eleanor also said there were complaints by the inmates of bad language used in the Almshouse, especially in the house Margaret Griffiths lived in.

The Inspector said it was reported that one woman received visits from a man who used to reside at her house, and who held conversation together and occasionally used very bad language, which was objected to by the neighbours.

Deaconess Eleanor said the inmates were visited by district visitors and by the Vicar or Curate every week. Mrs Phillips was a district visitor.

Mrs Phillips agreed with the statements made with respect to the Almshouse. Their condition was as represented.

Mr John Davies said a great deal of the complaints was tattle amongst old women.

The Inspector : You mean scandal ?

Mr Davies : Yes, and plenty of it.

Deaconess Eleanor said they would hear the evidence of Sergt. Rowen, then. He was not an old woman.

Mr James Davies said he could corroborate what had been said about the Almshouses.

P.C. Pettitt was subsequently called into the room, and stated that he saw Philip Griffiths drunk on the almshouse premises at 11 o'clock on Tuesday night in last week.—He had been in the closet, and shut himself in it for about three hours, and he took him out.

With regard to the state of the buildings, the Inspector said the sanitary arrangements were very defective, and some of the arrangements made had been demolished. But it would be an easy matter to get rid of the objection raised. That would be something to amuse the body of trustees when appointed.

It being elicited that the building was not insured, the Inspector said : It would not signify very much if it were all burnt down, would it ?

Mr J. J. Edwards expected it would to the poor people.

The Deaconess said it was in a better state of repair now than it had been.

Mr John Davies said last year the Overseers spent all their income in repairing the property, and if they had been allowed to remain in office another year they would have put the property in thorough repair.

Deaconess Eleanor made a statement as to the repairs to the Almshouse, and how the money had been obtained.

Mr John Davies stated that the accounts had been submitted to the Vestry and entered in the minute book. The balance of the income had gone into the Poor Rates.

The Inspector asked why.

Mr Davies said that was where it had been habitually put.

The Inspector said the Overseers were liable to be called upon to replace the money.

Mr Edwards said if their predecessors would refund the money thus dealt with, he should be quite prepared to do the same.

Mr John Davies presented a petition praying that a scheme prepared by the Overseers, and adopted at a vestry meeting some time ago, should be adopted by the Charity Commissioners.

Mrs Dunn said she had not been asked to sign it, and this was also remarked by other large ratepayers.

The Inspector remarked that that Charity known as "The Unknown Donor's Charity," could hardly thus be designated now. It had been revived by the Duke of Beaufort, and therefore there was no question as to the donor of the Almshouses. They understood exactly what the circumstances were ; what they had now to consider was what improvement they could effect in the application of it. For the reputation of the place it was most undesirable that it should be published abroad that the Almshouses were in a disreputable state, and that instead of the inmates living like human beings they were living like savages. That was not too strong an expression, was it ? They had been living so if they were not now, and it must be put a stop to. The

time had arrived for a new state of affairs to exist. A body of trustees should be appointed and be responsible for it. Would there be an objection to the appointment of the Governors of the Roger Edwards' Charity as such? They were persons who had the confidence of the whole town, and it would be very fortunate to have them appointed as the Trustees of this Charity—at any rate to start with them and make them the first body. The scheme would provide for the future election of Trustees. All of the Governors were residents of the town, and they were a respectable body, who had had experience with alms-houses, and had done their work well, having effected great improvements in the Grammar School.

It being suggested that the Churchwardens and Overseers should be *ex-officio* Trustees, the Inspector said the Overseers seemed to have done their work so badly that the less they had to do with them the better, and he thought the Charity Commissioners would object to them because they had a weakness or inclination to apply all money they could scrape together (as they had previously done here), with a view to relieve the rates, which was a highly improper thing to do. The money was never intended to relieve rich people—(hear, hear)—and when the money was put into the rates thriving and rich people became the recipients of charity. To check the malpractices adopted in this place a respectable body should have the control of the Almshouses, and could they have a better body of men than the present Governors of the Roger Edwards' Charity? It occurred to him that such an arrangement would be very convenient to start with, and they could subsequently make provision to fill up the body in some other way.

Mr Nicholas asked if it would be possible, were the present Trustees appointed, for them to hand over the money for school purposes.

The Inspector said if they were guilty of such a gross breach of trust as that they would be discharged from their position immediately.

Mr Jennings said it was quite possible to obtain Trustees outside the number on the Roger Edwards' Charity in the town. He thought it ought to be in the hands of the people to appoint them.

Mr John Davies said it was the wish of the parish expressed at the meeting when the scheme presented by the Overseers was passed, that the persons there named as Trustees should be appointed. The meeting was legally convened.

The Vicar said the Overseers convened that meeting by themselves alone.

The Inspector said they could legally convene a meeting by themselves. He further said that they all had the same end in view namely to make the Almshouse as extensively useful and beneficial as possible—that was the common object of all—and could they appoint a better body than he had proposed?

It was remarked that a great many were opposed to it, and that there was a great objection to the Trustees being self-elected.

The Inspector replied that they could turn out their Trustees if they failed to do their duty. The Inspector noticing the ill-feeling which existed and was being expressed further remarked that that was a meeting of friends and neighbours desirous of doing the

best they could to remedy the existing state of things, and to improve the management of the institution, and what could they do better than elect that body of tried persons?

Mr John Davies : We have tried them long enough.

The Inspector said if they were fit to manage the Grammar School they were certainly fit for that, were they not?

The list of trustees of the Overseers' scheme was then read, and the names were as follows:—Messrs James Parker, Sidney A. Hiley, John Davies, George Mundy, William Jones, Edgar Smith, J. H. Clark, F. Jennings, and J. O. Nicholas.

Mr Hiley remarked that he proposed the Vicar but he would not stand.

Mr Edwards having referred to the parish meeting,

Mr James Davies said it was a party meeting, not a parish meeting, to which

Mr Nicholas replied that it was a parish meeting properly called

The meeting referred to, it was stated, was held on 19th December, 1887, and the Vicar presided.

Mr Griffin said some very insulting remarks were made at the meeting.

Mr James Davies : A disgraceful meeting, I should say.

Mr Nicholas thought the Vicar at that meeting complimented the scheme drawn up by the Overseers, but, strange to say, at the second meeting, he was the other way about.

Mr Mundy said there ought to be a qualification for the trusteeship, and that was why the Vicar did not approve of it.

Mr Edwards said that could not have been the case as the question of qualification was not spoken of at the time.

The Vicar : I complimented them upon the trouble they had taken, and not upon the terms of the scheme ; and they had taken trouble.

It being remarked that the rev gentleman was on the Committee, he replied that that was so, but he was in the minority.

The Inspector read the names of the Trustees proposed in a second scheme (drawn up by the Vicar). They were: Rev S. C. Baker, *ex-officio* ; Messrs J. T. Cherry, and John Charles, churchwardens, while in office ; and Messrs Edwards and Davies, overseers, while in office, and their respective successors ; six to be nominated by the remaining trustees at a meeting called for the purpose, and not attended by less than two-thirds of the whole.

The third scheme was from Mr J. H. Clark : Twelve trustees to be appointed as follows : The Vicar and two Churchwardens ; three to be appointed by the Magistrates ; three by the Local Board ; and three by Parishioners in Vestry assembled.

The Inspector said his proposal came last, and was the worst perhaps. It was to make the Grammar School Governors the first Trustees. Instead of having two bodies they would then have one to take charge of all their charitable interests.

Mr T. J. Smith asked if the Trustees would be life Trustees.

The Inspector said the scheme would provide for their disqualification. Why would they have a multiplicity of governing bodies which would be so inconvenient and expensive?

Mr John Davies : I ask why we should appoint them? I think we ought to get new blood.

The Inspector replied that if he read the scheme he would see that they would have it.

Mr John Davies said the qualification would reduce the number eligible for election as Trustees and that, consequently, it would always be in the same hands, and very few changes would take place.

The Inspector said the larger the amount of a man's assessment the more likely was he to be an educated man and fit for the trusteeship.

Mr Jennings remarked that a working man would be able to look after and feel as interested in it as one in a better position.

The Inspector asked if a man could not take an interest in the Almshouse without being a trustee? If they saw anything wrong with a trustee they could make an objection to him, and if they could not obtain redress from the Trustees of the Charity, they could by writing to the Charity Commissioners. Did this opposition arise merely from a jealous feeling or for the benefit of the poor?

Mr Edwards: The jealousy is on the other side.

Mr Jennings said he was just thinking and going to say the same.

The Inspector said he supposed they did not think a working man would do better than a person with a higher assessment. A body of intelligent educated people was more fitted to manage such things. There might be equally valuable men, but men who had not the advantages the other men had. They would all have the opportunity of watching the proceedings of the Trustees, and if they saw they were abusing their trust in any way they could obtain redress as he had told them.

Mr Edwards took it that the Trustees of the Grammar School were elected by the scheme, of persons miles around Usk.

The Inspector pointed out that the Local Board was a representative body, and they elected representatives.

Mr John Davies said two of the Local Board were on the scheme proposed by the Overseers.

Mr Nicholas said if the Commissioners followed the feeling of the people they would adopt the scheme passed by the Vestry, and he thought that was the least thing they could do.

The Inspector did not think that recommendation was the recommendation of the whole of the parishioners but only of those present at the vestry meeting.

Mr Edwards said the others did not take sufficient interest to be present, and, therefore, they ought to abide by the consequences.

Reference being made to the names attached to the petition, Mr Nicholas said most of those of the heaviest ratepayers were on it.

Mrs Dunn and several other large ratepayers said they had not been asked to sign it.

The Inspector remarked that if he reported that it would be satisfactory that those persons who were at present Governors of the Grammar School, should be the Trustees of this Charity, it would only be a recommendation, and nothing would be done without further notice being given.

Mr Voyce proposed, and Dr Lawrence seconded, the adoption of the Inspector's suggestions.

Mr John Davies said that was not a representative meeting.

The Inspector pointed out that it was just as representative as the one he (Mr Davies) had referred to previously, full and due notice having been given.

Mr Davies remarked that it was held at a time when many could not attend.

The Inspector: What time would you have held it?

Mr Clark: At eight o'clock at night?

Mr Jennings thought the petition had been representative of a great many.

Mr J. O. Nicholas objected to the proposition of the Inspector. He advocated the scheme which had been drawn up in accordance with the views of the people. The subject had been brought before the parish so many times, and at the last, that scheme had been adopted; and he must say that the Vicar congratulated them on the scheme, but he had since turned right round, for what reason he did not know.

Mr Hiley proposed, as an addition to the proposition of the Inspector, that there should be three popularly-elected Trustees as well as the other Governors. This, he thought, might be acceptable to them all.

The original proposition was put to the meeting and carried by 15 votes to 9, the amendment being made too late.

However, it was subsequently unanimously agreed that Mr. Hiley's proposed addition should be adopted, on the qualification being reduced from £20 assessment to £15—the same qualification as for membership of the Local Board.

It was also decided that the Charity should be vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Funds.

The Inspector said, in order to discharge their duties properly, it would be necessary to have a scheme, which would provide in the same way as for the Almshouse at Coedcwnner. They could not afford, however, to have a chaplain, medical officer, and matron—those were luxuries beyond their means. All the schemes which had been proposed would be considered by the Commissioners who would draft one which they thought would be the right thing, and then they would give notice of their appointments. If there were any objections they would be considered subsequently.

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL.

This was the next subject for consideration.

The Rev S. C. Baker stated that he was the Trustee, and the school was registered and enrolled under the Royal National Society, and was carried on in connection with the Church of England. It was maintained by the Government Grant, voluntary subscriptions, and a small portion of Roger Edwards' bequest.

MRS M'GOWAN'S CHARITY.

This consists of a sum of £3,000, bequeathed by Jane Mc.Gowan, in 1869, to the Vicar and Churchwardens, of Usk, and their successors, upon trust for twelve women of respectable manner of life, selected from the parish of Usk, to be equally divided among them for maintenance and support during life, by monthly or quarterly payments at the discretion of the Trustees.

According to the provisions of the will, this Charity does not come into operation until the decease of the two nieces of the donor—the Misses Matthews.

It was remarked that those ladies were respectively of about 68 and 64 years of age.

The Vicar said it was not essential to add that to the Almshouse Charity. The tradition was that it was for the almshouse people alone.

The Inspector remarked that the bequest was left for women, and in the Almshouse there were men, and unless they elected the inmates all women, it could not be so applied. The discretion rested with them.

MISS HANNAH BARNARD DAVIES' CHARITY.

This Charity consists of a bequest made in 1883, of Miss Hannah Barnard Davies to the poor of Usk. The will, it was stated, was sworn under £9,457 18s 1d (the sole executor having been Mr Alexander Waddington), and the sum bequeathed probably amounted to £4,000 or £5,000. A suit was pending relative to the will.

The Inspector said the Charity was therefore *sub judice*.

This concluded the enquiry, and the Inspector thanked those present for the assistance they had given him in conducting the enquiry, and especially Mr Clark, who had on the previous day, traversed the country with him brushing up the Almshouses, and finding all the fault he could. He also thanked the Vicar, and Mr Harris, for their kind assistance. He only hoped that the result of this enquiry would be found to work extremely well under the excellent management of the very experienced body who were to be appointed to the control of the Charity, viz: The Governors of the Grammar School Foundation, and three representative persons who are to be elected.

A vote of thanks to the Inspector for his able, patient, and painstaking manner in conducting the enquiry closed the meeting.

At the foregoing enquiry the Overseers received a well-merited rebuke for their conduct with respect to the recent disturbances and profligacy permitted by them to prevail, by interlopers on the Almshouse premises, to the annoyance and scandal of the aged and peaceable inmates.

The disregard of these officials to the complaints made to them, and refusing to take means to repress the grievance admits of no palliation, for when written to on the subject, a most discourteous letter to the complainant was framed in reply.

Mr. John Davies, in presenting a petition "praying that the scheme prepared by the Overseers at a ves-

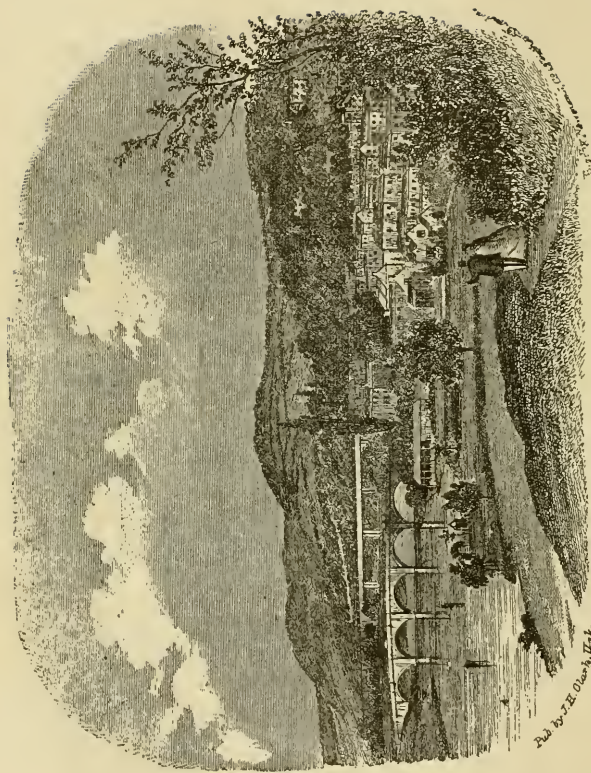
try meeting some time previously should be adopted by the Charity Commissioners;" and also stating that if they had "been allowed to remain in office another year, they would have put the property in thorough repair," was mere subterfuge; the persons attending the parish meetings when the suggested scheme was framed, were principally of democratic principles, and it could not be considered a representative meeting of the inhabitants, notwithstanding Mr. Nicholas's assurance that "the scheme had been drawn up in accordance with the views of the people." Mr. Davies, who has been a great many years dabbling in parochial matters, shewed a lamentable lack of knowledge and discretion when he stated he had paid the balance of the money belonging to the poor into the rates, instead of handing it over to his successors in office.

Mr. J. J. Edwards, the other late overseer in stating that the inhabitants who "did not attend the parish meetings did not take sufficient interest to be present, and ought to abide the consequence," must have known he was assigning a wrong construction for their absence, for the real cause of the more respectable and highly taxed inhabitants not attending such parochial gatherings is well known to arise from the insults they have had to submit to from an organised rabble, at meetings held at late hours of the night, and called together by a bellman at the instigation of a few violent agitators.

Well may the Inspector exclaim, when it was suggested that the overseers should in future be *ex-officio* trustees of the Almshouse Charity, that "the overseers seemed to have done their work so badly, that the less they had to do with them the better, and he thought the Charity Commissioners would object to them."

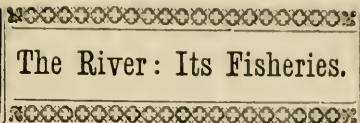

The enquiry has been very beneficial to the poor as they will now have the money left for them dispensed by a body of Trustees of position.






View from Llanbodoc Rock.

Pub. by J. H. Owen & Co.



The River: Its Fisheries.



The Usk has its source in the Black Mountains of Brecknockshire, passes in a southern direction, enters Monmouthshire at Llangroiny, and winds its way through a most delicious valley, rivalling the most celebrated Swiss or Italian scenery. Its total course is about sixty miles.

At Usk the Angler finds good sport, and up to the year 1854 many of the inhabitants gained their livelihood a great portion of the year by netting and angling. During the season, ten or a dozen fishermen were to be seen carrying their coracles on their backs in going to and returning from their avocation. These coracles were used on many of the Welsh rivers, and were historical as well as curious, as they afforded a specimen of the earliest British navigation, and were made, probably, still in their original form. Their shape resembled the section of a walnut shell; the length was about five feet, and the breadth about four, with a seat placed across the centre; they were made of thin hoops crossed, with very strong basket-work edges, and covered with strong coarse canvas, thickly coated with pitch. They were intended for only one person, and it was amusing to observe the mode in which they were managed. The dexterous navigator sat precisely in the middle, and it required a considerable deal of experience to keep a just balance, as the fisherman might often have been observed to work his paddle with one hand while he conducted the net with the other, at the same time holding a line in his teeth.

These frail vessels were formerly used as the means of intercourse between the inhabitants on the opposite banks of the rivers, and even Cæsar did not disdain to adopt them, but they were now principally applied to the purpose of fishing. The Ancient Britons covered theirs with the hides of their horses.

These slight barks would probably have been succeeded by some invention of more strength and capacity, had there not been found a remarkable convenience in their lightness, as they seldom weighed more than thirty or forty pounds each, being manufactured to suit the convenience of the individuals for whom they were intended. The fisherman somewhat resembled an amphibious animal; when he came to a very shallow part of the river, or when his labour was over, he slung the boat across his back by means of a leather strap attached to the seat, and anon was in the stream again or marching homeward under the burthen of his little vessel and booty, for which provision was made under the seat. On the banks of the Usk, Wye, and other fresh water rivers, these coracles were to be seen hanging at the doors of many of the cottages, and such was the dexterity of those who used them, that they were very rarely overturned on the rivers, and they sometimes even ventured a little way out to sea when the weather was perfectly calm. "Some years ago," it was said, "a spirited boatman on the Wye astonished the natives of Ross by undertaking, for a wager, to navigate his coracle to the farthest extremity of the Bristol Channel, which was then thought nearly as impossible as to go round the world in it. His voyage lasted a fortnight, during which he encountered difficulties beyond belief, but the exploit was successfully achieved at last." To those unaccustomed to using these cockle shells, it was a most difficult task to prevent being overturned; it required to be as carefully balanced as a spoon on the edge of a teacup, and if in playing a trout on a hook in fly fishing,

the angler overreached in the slightest degree he was inevitably plunged into a cold bath.

The Usk abounds with fish, and its salmon is considered preferable to any. The salmon of the Severn, the Wye, the Towey, and Teifi, have been praised in their turns, but epicures have invariably awarded the boon of excellence to those caught in the Usk. Old Churchyard spoke of it as "so fresh, so sweete, so red, so crimp withall." There is also a very nice fish, very similar to the salmon, caught in this river, called the sewen; it is of excellent flavour, and by some thought superior to the salmon. Linnæus and other naturalists ranked it as the grey or silver salmon (*salmo eriox*) and common in the rivers communicating with the Baltic Sea, but the Welsh pride themselves in the supposition of its being peculiar to South Wales, in which opinion they have been confirmed by the hasty opinions of tourists. Donovan says: "So far as my own observations tend to ascertain the truth of this affair, the sewen is no where found so plentiful in Great Britain as in the Severn or Bristol Channel, and the streams that communicate with them, for, like the common salmon, it is equally an inhabitant of the briny ocean, as of the clearest fresh waters in the interior of the country."

"The sewen may by chance attain the size of the largest salmon, an instance of which I once saw at Hafod, but they still retain those characters by which the smallest of the kind may be discriminated. The sewen differs in various particulars from the common salmon (*salmon salar*), that will not fail to strike the eye of the judicious naturalist. The general colour of the whole fish is slightly dissimilar; the head is shorter and more sloping, while the lower jaw extends rather beyond the upper one, the precise contrary of which is observable in the common salmon; the back is of a pale greyish colour, glossed with blue, and by no means so dark as in the common salmon; this greyish colour prevails

under the scales from the back to the lateral line, beneath which the whole fish is of the brightest silver; both on the back and sides, above and below the lateral line, the body is marked with dusky purple spots of a roundish shape, which on close inspection appear to be somewhat cruciform; the lateral line is straight, and placed rather lower than in the generality of fishes; the tail is slightly forked, but not semilunated as in the common salmon; when the flesh is cut it is a pale red, and in point of size the sewen rarely exceeds twelve or fifteen inches, weighing from one to two pounds each."

Mr. Donovan must have been mistaken in supposing this fish rarely exceeds two pounds weight, for it is frequently of considerable size, and sometimes weighs twelve or fourteen pounds, but the average weight of the fish is from two to three pounds.

The river is likewise famous for trout, which in conventional days afforded an ample supply to the numerous religious communities on its banks, who were restricted from indulging too frequently in a carneous diet.

From the days of the famous King Arthur, when it is said he entertained his valiant "Knights of the Round Table" at Caerleon, it has always been affirmed that the Usk was productive of better sport for the angler than any other river in Wales. The poet says:—

"Though bright the waters of the Towy,
The Wye, the Severn, and the Teifi:
Yet well I wot they cannot show ye
Such SALMON as the Usk can give ye.
It was—(we choose not to go farther)—
The favoured dish of bold King Arthur;
Who, when he chose like King to dine,
Went down to Usk with rod and line,
And there drew slily to the bank
Such trout as best became his rank;
Sometimes by twains, at others singly,
But always with a twitch so kingly,

The salmon seemed so much delighted,
 As if they really had been "knighted!"
 No wonder, for they quickly found
 An *entree* for the TABLE ROUND,
 Where seated with his gallant knights,
 Those heroes of a hundred fights;—
 "Leave," quoth he, "acorns in the husk,
 Here's glorious salmon from the Usk!"

There was for some centuries a curious tradition respecting Usk salmon, which seems to set at defiance all natural laws, but the belief in which has become almost, if not entirely, obsolete. The tradition is, or was, that the salmon in the river Usk differed so materially from the salmon in the Wye that an experienced fisherman was able to distinguish one from the other; and also that when the fish was in season in one river it was out of season in the other. Probably the earliest reference to this tradition is found in the *Itinerary of Giraldus Cambrensis*, who states: "River fish are plentiful, supplied by the Usk on one side and by the Wye on the other; each of them produces salmon and trout, but the Wye abounds most with the former, and the Usk with the latter. The salmon of the Wye are in season during the winter, and those of the Usk in summer."

The river Usk was celebrated for its salmon long before Isaac Walton's time. Churchward, in his "Worthiness of Wales," printed in 1587, in Queen Elizabeth's reign, says:

"A pretie town called Oske, near Ragglan stands,
 A river there doth beare the self-same name;
 Its christall streames, that runnes along the sands,
 Shewes that it is a river of great fame.
 Fresh water sweet this goodly river yields,
 And when it swels it spreads ore all the fields.
 Great store of fish is caught within its flood,
 That doth indeed both town and countrye good.
 A thing to note when salmon failes in Wye,
 (And season, there; goes out, as order is)
 Then, still of course in Oske doth sammons bye.
 And of good fish in Oske you shall not mis.
 And this seems strange, as doth through Wales appeare
 In some one place are sammons all the yeare;
 So fresh, so sweete, so red, so crimpt withall
 That man might say, loe sammons here at call."

Again, a century later, Enderbie, in his *Cambria Triumphans*, which he wrote at Llantarnam Abbey, says: "By the way, give me leave to tell you that when salmon grows out of kind or season in Wye, in the river Usk, which runneth through Caerlington, but ten miles distant in the same county, salmons come in season, so that in the county of Monmouth all the whole year salmons are fit to be presented to an Emperor's table; and if a Wye salmon chance to come into Usk, or *e contra*, the fishermen are so skilful as to tell you this is an Usk salmon, this of Wye."

Still later, Rogers, in his *Memoirs of Monmouthshire*, refers to "One rarity more remarkable to be observed in these rivers, that when salmon is out of season in the river Usk, it comes in season in the river Wye, and so *vice versa*, though they fall into the river Severn, about twelve miles distant from each other, so that salmon is in season all the year long in this county."

A salmon of 68½ lb. was caught in a net by two fishermen in coracles, in the month of June of 1782, about a mile and a half below the town of Usk. A painting was made of the fish about two hours after it was caught; and there never was a fish in greater perfection. It was not eaten, but taken to Bristol and Bath as a show, and kept until it was too putrid to be eaten.

The fishery was in 1855 rented to a company of gentlemen, who formed the "Trostreay Weir Association," of which James Greenfield, Esquire, of Brynderwin, was the honorary secretary, and at a meeting of the Association, held at the Angel Hotel, Abergavenny, on the 16th March, 1855, the following rules were adopted:—

- 1st.—The Fishery commences at Trostreay Weir and extends on both sides of the river, down to the Bridge in the Town of Usk.
- 2nd.—That any Subscriber of *not less* than £1 1s. to the Trostreay Weir Association be entitled to a Season Fishing Ticket.

- 3rd.—That an Annual Subscriber of £3 be allowed *one*; an Annual Subscriber of £5, *two*; and an Annual Subscriber of £10, *four* extra Season Tickets besides their own, which they will have the privilege of transferring to any friend, not being resident *in or within six miles of the Town of Usk*, on writing the name of such friend on the face of the Ticket and *indorsing* it with his own name.
- 4th.—That no person be allowed to fish in the said Fishery, unless accompanied by a Subscribing Member, or having and producing a Season Ticket, Weekly Ticket, or Day Ticket.
- 5th.—That any Subscribing Member be allowed to take a friend to fish in company with him, *provided the friend be not resident within fifteen miles of the Town of Usk*, and that any Subscribing Member, having sons, be allowed, when not fishing himself, to lend his Ticket to one of his sons.
- 6th.—That Day and Weekly Tickets be issued by the Secretary, to persons desirous of fishing in the said fishery, and not being residents within six miles of the Town of Usk, on payment of 2s. 6d. by each person, for each Day Ticket, and 7s. 6d. for each Weekly Ticket. Such Tickets to be available for the day or week therein named only, and not to be transferable.
- 7th.—That the Secretary has power to grant not exceeding twenty tickets, *gratis*, to such persons as he shall think fit, resident *in, or within two miles of the Town of Usk*, permitting them to angle for Trout only in the said fishery on Tuesdays and Saturdays in each week, but on those days only.
- 8th.—That the Fishing Season for both Trout and Salmon do commence on the 1st of March, and end on the 14th of October in each year.
- 9th.—That no netting or other fishing, except fair rod and line fishing be allowed in the said fishery, and that no night lob worm or salmon paste fishing be allowed by any person.
- 10th.—That whoever is found acting contrary to these rules, or to any of them, or violating any existing Act of Parliament framed for the protection of Salmon or Trout, will not only be prosecuted, but also forfeit his Ticket.
- 11th.—That the Keepers of the Association are charged to see that the foregoing rules are strictly enforced, and the Day and Weekly Tickets are to be given up to one or other of them on the day the Ticket expires.

These rules have been from time to time altered and made more stringent. On the 4th of February,

1873, the annual meeting of the Association was held at Abergavenny. The result of the meeting was not made public, and the working of the Association was most unsatisfactory to the County, and particularly to some of the landed proprietors. Up to the year 1855, when the Trostrey Weir Association was formed, the inhabitants of the town obtained tickets to fish for trout, free of cost, upon applying to an agent of Mr. Leigh's, of Pontypool Park, and the river was rented to fishermen who netted it and supplied the town of Usk and adjacent towns with salmon and other fish.

On the renting of the river by the present Association, the Rules of 1855 were made more stringent, the number of persons to whom tickets were issued was reduced, and the prices raised until, in 1872, the number of non-transferable Salmon Tickets, which a few years previously had been fixed at forty, were reduced to twenty-seven, and four transferable day tickets only were issued, viz., two to the Three Salmon's Hotel, Usk, one to the Post Office, Usk, and one to Mr. Mullock, stationer, Newport; to be issued at 7s. 6d. per day, and the rules of the Association were made of so stringent and prohibitory a nature that some of the most influential residents of Usk ceased to be ticket holders.

Not content with the exclusiveness of the rules, at a meeting held at Abergavenny, on the 4th February, 1873, the number of tickets were further reduced to twenty-two, at an increased charge, and of that number six only were held by residents in the County. Most of the privileged persons were strangers, and came only to angle at intervals during the season when they had intimation from the river-keepers that the water was in good order for angling; whilst gentlemen who would come to occupy houses and permanently reside in the town were debarred from so doing by the difficulty and almost impossibility of obtaining permission to angle.

The 7th rule adopted this year stated:—"Non-transferable season salmon tickets (Class B) at present numbering twenty-seven shall be gradually reduced to twenty, and the charge for such tickets shall be as follows:—If 27 tickets are issued, £10 each; if 26, £10 10s.; if 25, £11 10s.; if 24, £12; if 23, £12 10s.; if 22, £13; if 21, £14; if 20, £15. The sum of £3 shall be paid by the Association to the Board of Conservators for each ticket struck off from the present number (27) until the reduction has been effected. No ticket in this Class shall be supplied to new applicants except by special resolution of the Committee. Class B tickets will only be issued to members of the Association."

It was thought to be quite time that efforts should be made to put an end to this exclusiveness, or the river, in a few years, would be in the hands of about half-a-dozen gentlemen, and that the inhabitants of the town should exert themselves without delay, as the lease to the Association would expire in twelve months; and, previous to its being renewed, that a memorial should be sent to Mr. Hanbury, and that gentleman would doubtless see the undesirability of renewing a lease to persons whose exclusive actions were fraught with so much injury to the neighbourhood.

The report issued that year by the Inspector of the Salmon Fisheries, furnished some interesting facts relative to the water of the Usk, from which it appeared "that 3,000 salmon were taken during the year, and that this river is perhaps the least obstructed and polluted river in England and Wales. Some 2 000 of the salmon had been taken by the rod and line during the season."

It has been asserted that "the object of the Association has been to promote, as far as possible, the interests of the town and neighbourhood of Usk." Whatever may have been the object of the Committee, their line of action has had the opposite effect, for out of twenty ticket holders for the season referred to, only five were resident in the County;

and taking 1869,-70,-71—three years of drought, scarcely a non-resident angler was staying in the town for any length of time, and therefore could not be conferring much benefit to the district; whereas, if the ticket holders had been well-disposed resident members, they would probably have been spending their money, whether the water was in a “fishable” state or not, unless they had followed the example of many other residents, in sending to the London stores for all the available commodities they required.

It has also been stated that “the water was overstocked with rods, as the constant complaints and warnings calculated to deter visitors, which appeared in the sporting papers, clearly showed.” As the writer saw most of the papers named, no such warnings came under his observations except in one or two instances, when the report was evidently written by parties who wished “to deter visitors” and keep all the sport between a favoured few. Again, it was alleged that “in 1872 many of the then ticket holders intimated that unless the number of tickets was reduced, they would not continue to take tickets.” Now a good deal on the subject of this grumbling had been heard, and it was the opinion of many of the inhabitants that if these grumblers left the place, it would be a blessing, as they did but little towards the prosperity of the trade of the town.

Just about this time a Mr. Alfred Slater visited Usk, and, being refused a ticket, sent the following letter to the local newspaper (see *Observer*, April 5th, 1873):—

“To the Editor of *The County Observer*.

“SIR,—I need not tell the inhabitants of Usk what they already know, namely, that I have not been offered a salmon ticket for this season; although, perhaps, they may not be aware that many members junior to myself in the Association have had tickets offered to them.

“On receiving notice to the effect that I was not to have a ticket, I forwarded to Mr. Berrington in the second week of February an appeal against this decision, with a request that he would be good enough to bring it under the consideration

of the Committee as soon as he could possibly do so ; but up to the present time I have received no reply to my appeal.

"I subsequently remitted to the Secretary of the Association a post office order for £1 1s., requesting that he would forward me a trout season ticket in return ; instead of which he sent back the order, with an intimation that my application for the trout ticket should be submitted to the Committee. This morning I received a further note from him saying that "my application will be submitted to the Committee at their meeting in May," so that in all probability I may receive a reply when the best part of the season is passed. Such treatment is simply persecution, and needs no comment from me.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"ALFRED SLATER.

Llanbadoc, April 3rd, 1873."

In June, 1873, the subject of the restrictions upon the inhabitants of Usk in angling in the river was brought before the members of the Local Board, when it was unanimously determined that Mr. J. H. Clark, the Chairman, should write to His Grace the Duke of Beaufort, stating the dissatisfaction that prevailed on account of the few tickets issued, the stringent rules, and the refusal of tickets to parties who reside, and who wish to reside, in the neighbourhood, by the Association, and to ask His Grace to consent to lease the portion of the river over which he has control to certain responsible persons in the town, who would exercise moderation and discretion in appropriating tickets for the general welfare of the inhabitants. Also, to call His Grace's attention to the 9th Clause of the new Salmon Fishery Bill, now before the House, by which water-bailiffs are empowered to enter and traverse upon the lands of farmers bordering the river, and to solicit him to oppose the Bill passing in the House of Lords.

His Grace afterwards leased his rights to Messrs. Alexander Waddington, James Henry Clark, and James Jones, who at once issued salmon tickets at 2ls. and trout tickets at 5s. for the season to residents in the town of Usk. This settled the matter for a time, but ultimately the Association, who probably found the transfer of the Duke's fishery from their control to be a very serious inconvenience

to their ticket holders, consented, if the lessees of the Duke's fishery would relinquish their lease, to allow the inhabitants to have tickets on the same terms on that part of the fishery.

Writing to *The County Observer*, July 24th, 1873, an "Uskite" says :—

"There has been war on the river ! Anglers, netters, and brinkers at war ! but chiefly between the netters against the brinkers. The Duke of Beaufort has desired in a liberal manner to join the amusements of his family with the interests of his neighbours and the inhabitants of Usk. He is for concession and goodwill to all."

On the date of the above letter a paragraph appeared in the local newspaper that "The officials of the Board of Conservators netted the river on Monday between the Weir at Trostrey and the Railway Bridge at Usk. Eighty-seven salmon were taken, weighing upwards of four hundred weight."

An "Inhabitant" a fortnight later wrote :—

"SIR,—Your correspondent "Uskite" in his letter of the 24th ultimo, writes : 'The Duke of Beaufort has desired in a liberal manner to join the amusement of his family with the interest of his neighbours and the inhabitants of Usk. He is for concession and goodwill to all.' Another remark is : 'Imitate the Duke of Beaufort.'

The above extracts allude to the fact of His Grace having in a most liberal manner leased to the inhabitants of Usk his rights of fishing on certain portions of the river Usk. Let us observe how this concession has been met by the Usk Fishery Association. As soon as it became known, the Committee would seem to have said to themselves : 'Well, the Duke may let them have the water, but we will have the fish,' for in the week ended the 27th ult., the Association twice netted that portion of the river upon which the Duke of Beaufort's tickets are available, and has continued the netting since then, but leaving undisturbed that part of the river where the tickets are not available; The consequence is there is scarcely a fish to be seen on the Duke's property, and the angling is a dead letter.

"Again, several gentlemen went to Trostrey Weir to fish, and were 'ordered off,' the keeper making use of the following words : 'Actison had received instructions from Mr. Berrington to order off the Weir all the Duke of Beaufort's ticket holders.' If this order is persisted in, this portion of the river becomes useless, as it can only be fished from the Weir.

I trust, Mr. Editor, one or other of the lessees will deem it right to communicate these facts to His Grace, and also to the Trustees of the Pontypool Park Estate, as I cannot believe these gentlemen are aware of what is going on."

RULES UNDER WHICH TICKETS MAY BE ISSUED
FOR THE MONMOUTHSHIRE DISTRICT. 1889.

Subject to the Applicants being approved by the Committee.

1.—The Water is divided into the Upper and Lower Reaches. The Upper Fishery consists of the Association Waters between Penpergwm Railway Bridge and Pont Kemeys (the Chain Bridge), including, speaking generally, the Clytha and Pant-y-Goitre Fisheries, and Part of the Kemeys Fishery. The Lower Fishery consists of the Association Waters between Pont Kemeys and Redland Pool, and includes, speaking generally, the Trostre and Crown Fisheries, and part of the Kemeys Fisheries. The Forge Mill, Brynderwen, Lan, Monkswood, and some other smaller Fisheries are not at present in the occupation of the Association. The Fishery from off Trostre Weir is exclusively reserved for Classes A, B, and C. The Committee reserve the right of Netting.

2.—All Applications for Season Tickets and Rules of the Association must be made to the Secretary. Weekly and Daily Trout Tickets may be obtained at Usk, Newport, Newbridge, Abergavenny, and Pontypool. For one Trout rod, 2s. 6d. per day, or 10s. per week.

3.—Season Trout Tickets will be issued at One Guinea each for the Upper Fishery, and One Guinea each for the Lower Fishery.

4.—Transferable Season Trout Tickets, to be called House Tickets, and available on both Fisheries, may be issued at £3 each, to persons residing in the district, to be used only by friends visiting at the house of the holder, such friends not being residents in the County of Monmouth.

5.—The Committee reserve the right to issue four transferable Season Salmon Tickets (Class A), at present held by Lord Tredegar, Mr. Berrington, Col. Lyne, and Mr. Reginald Herbert, and also to issue other similar Tickets by way of arrangement with landowners and others. A transferable Ticket can only be transferred by the holder or his recognized agent, and not by any person to whom he may have lent it, or for any pecuniary consideration.

6.—Fifteen non-transferable Season Salmon Tickets at £25 each for the Upper Fishery, and fifteen non-transferable Season Salmon Tickets at £25 each for the Lower Fishery, will be issued to Members of the Association. Class B Tickets on the Lower Water will be subject to the beat system.

7.—Three non-transferable Salmon Day Tickets, available on Beats X, Y, Z, respectively of the Lower Fishery (Class C) will be placed with Mr. Edwards, Chemist, Usk. A book is to be kept on the counter open to the inspection of all comers, and any person may claim to have his name entered on such book as engaging one of such Tickets for any day or days not

already occupied, on payment of the price of the Tickets, and not otherwise. Provided that no person can engage Tickets for more than three consecutive days before five o'clock in the evening of the last of such days; and no person can engage a Ticket for more than twenty-one days before the date for which it is required. The Distributor must enter the names of all persons who engage to take Tickets in the book, and will be answerable for the price of the Ticket for every name entered, in addition to any other Ticket he may sell. The price for Class C Tickets will be 10s. per day. Two similar Tickets, available on the Upper Fishery, will be placed—one with Mr. Seargeant, Abergavenny, and one with Mr. Edwards, Chemist, Usk.

8.—Tickets (Class D) may be granted to angle for Salmon between the Stable of the Old Mill, at Trostrey, and the County Bridge, at Usk (the field belonging to Col. McDonnell and any private gardens excepted), at 20s. for the season, to *bona fide* residents in the Usk and Ebbw Fishery District, within the County of Monmouth; and for Trout, between the Stable of the Old Mill, at Trostrey, and Pont Sampit (with the same exemptions), at 5s. for the season. Such Tickets can be obtained at Usk and Pontypool.

9.—All Salmon Tickets include the right of angling for other Fish during the Trout Season, subject to these Rules.

10.—Season Tickets for Salmon or Trout will only be issued on receipt of the money by the Secretary, J. A. Lyne, Westgate Chambers, Newport, Mon., except under Rule 5.

11.—A list will be kept by the Secretary of all the applicants for Class B Season Tickets, with the date of the receipt of the application.

12.—If any gentleman who has hitherto held a Ticket, or to whom one has been offered, neglects to apply for a fresh one before the 1st day of January in each Season, and to pay for it before the 1st day of March, it cannot be reserved for him.

13.—A Ticket once issued cannot be transferred to another name or exchanged, but if from any cause a Ticket shall become no longer available, the Secretary may issue an additional Ticket of the same class and at the same price.

14.—Except below the Bridge at Newbridge, no fishing except fair rod and line angling, and no night line or night lobworm fishing is allowed; no fishing for Salmon except with artificial fly, and no spinning or worm fishing for Trout, on the Salmon Catches.

15.—No gaff shall be used as auxiliary to rod and line, or had in possession on the river side by an angler or his assistant, before the 1st of May, and all persons fishing are required to supply themselves with landing nets in lieu thereof.

16.—Except by special order of the Committee no angling is allowed on any part of the Association Waters, except the Limited Waters, before 8 a.m. In the event of two or more

gentlemen being at a Catch at 8 a.m., they shall draw lots for the first turn. When two or more Ticket Holders meet at a Catch at the hour prescribed for commencing to fish, any one of them who had the first fishing of that Catch on the previous day shall give way. No angling is allowed after 9 p.m. During the months of June and July the hour of 10 p.m. shall be substituted for 9 p.m. All Tickets expire after the evening of Nov. 1st.

17.—The Season for Trout angling commences on the 15th of February, and ends on the 30th September inclusive.

18.—The Season for Salmon angling commences on the 2nd of April, and ends on the 1st November inclusive.

19.—Ticket holders are required to show their Tickets and Licenses when requested to do so.

20.—The River is divided into different Catches, and the Keepers are provided with cards on which the name of each Catch is printed. No Angler shall occupy a Catch whilst another is waiting to fish it for more than half-an-hour, the time spent in playing a Fish not to be counted. Anglers to take precedence in the order of their arrival. An Angler may fish after another at not less than 25 yards distance without giving previous notice, when the man in front may only fish the Catch again by commencing behind all those who were following him. In the event of a Fish being hooked, all other rods must give way. In the part of the River in which there are concurrent rights of Fishery, these Rules only apply to gentlemen holding Association Tickets.

21.—Any Ticket Holder selling his Fish, or lending his Ticket, or acting contrary to these Rules, or violating any Act of Parliament for the preservation of Fish, or any Bye-law of the Board of Conservators of the District, or conducting himself in a manner unbecoming a gentleman, shall forfeit his Ticket, and shall have no further claim on the Association or its Officers. In all cases of dispute, or of forfeiture of Tickets, the decision of the Committee shall be final, and Tickets are only issued subject to this condition.

22.—The Committee may decline to grant or renew any Ticket to any person, at their discretion.

23.—The word "Salmon" in these Rules is to be interpreted as in the Salmon Fishery Acts, 1861 to 1873.

24.—Mr. Hanbury reserves the right of angling for himself personally, and the right of giving previous notice to reserve for any day the exclusive right of angling for Salmon, on any one of the continuous Catches of the Crown Fishery, as they are numbered from 61 to 97 inclusive, on the Card of Catches, for himself and friends staying at Pontypool Park; also three Tickets for the Crown Fishery, transferable by himself to his friends, but not transferable by them.

25.—No Ticket Halder on the Association Waters is allowed to be accompanied by a dog.

26.—Sunday fishing is prohibited on the Association Waters,

1888.

WATERS OF THE UNITED USK ASSOCIATION.

(MONMOUTHSHIRE DISTRICT.)

List of SALMON CATCHES for the purpose of Rule 20, and
How to be Fished.

The Association do not guarantee the entire accuracy of this description of the Water, which must be ascertained by Ticket Holders.

Right Bank.

UPPER FISHERY.

Left Bank.

The Association Water commences one field below Penpergwm Railway Bridge. An unenclosed portion of Llangattock Glebe marked by an old thorn hedge intervenes between Catches 1 and 2, and continues to Notice Board.

1. LLANGATTOCK CHURCH.
Right
2. BRYN STREAM.
Right. From Notice Board to Poplar.
3. LOWER BRYN.
Right. To Line of Lower Fence of Arable Field on Left Bank
4. NEW MEADOW STREAM.
Either. To Seat opposite Poplars
5. UPPER BLACK STREAM.
Either. To Seat.
6. LOWER BLACK STREAM.
Either. To Fence on Right Bank and Post on Left Bank.
7. BLACK POOL.
Either. To Posts.
8. THE ISLAND.
Either. To Posts.
9. UPPER LLWYN.
Either, To Seat.
10. CORNER POOL.
Either. To Seat and Post.
11. LOWER CORNER POOL.
Right.
12. CLYTHA ROOKERY.
Either. To Llanover Brook.
13. PANT-Y-GOITRE
ROOKERY.
Either. To Post at Rock.
14. LOWER ROOKERY.
Either.
15. PANT-Y-GOITRE BRIDGE.
Right. Or from Bridge.
16. BRIDGE STREAM.
Right. As far as it can be waded
17. LLANGWILIM.
Right. To Ash Tree.

Association Water commences at the Bryn Pool

One Arable Field of Llangattock Glebe intervenes

Llanover Brook.

Here intervenes one Field of Kemeys Glebe

Right Bank.

18. LOWER LLANGWILIM.
Either. To Wire Fence on Right Bank.

19. PLANTATION
Either. As far as it can be waded from Right Bank.

20. YNS-Y-GORS.
Right. To Fence.

21. LOWER LLWYN.
Either. To First Seat.

It is a mistake to wade too deeply on the Llwyn and Swan

22. LOWER LLWYN STREAM.
Either. To Second Post.

23. LLWYN CORNER.
Right. Until Wading commences

24. UPPER SWAN.
Either. To Rock.

Wading at the Turnpool requires caution.

25. MIDDLE SWAN (STREAM)
Either. To Turnpool.

26. LOWER SWAN.
Either.

27. WEAVER'S ROCK.
Right.

28. WEAVER'S STREAM.
Either. To Elms.

29. WEAVER'S POOL.
Either. To Watering Place on Right Bank.

30. UPPER CHURCH MEADOW
Either. To Last Fence of Clytha

31. LOWER CHURCH MEADOW
Right. To Mouth of Llanvair Brook.

Llanvair Brook;

32. UPPER LLANVAIR GLEBE
Right. To Line of Lowest Sycamore on Left Bank.

33. UPPER POUND.
Left. Opposite 32.

34. LOWER LLANVAIR GLEBE
Right. To Fence above Larches

35. FORGE STREAM.
Either. Below the Weir to Post

36. GLANUSK.
Right. To Plantation.

40. UPPER LLYN-Y-LLADRON
Right. To Seat.

41. LOWER LLYN-Y-LLADRON
Right. To Fence on Right Bank

42. ROCK STREAM.
Right. To Seat

Pont Kemeys.

43. ROCK POOL.
Either

Left Bank.
Here intervenes Gardens at Llangwili.

Ffrwd Brook.

Clawr Brook.

Chain Bridge.
21 B.

LOWER FISHERY.

Right Bank.

The Duke of
Beaufort's fish-
ery intervenes
from Old Pandy
Mill to the Bind-
ing.

Left Bank

44. LLWYN HIR
Right.
45. UPPER PANDY.
Left.
46. MIDDLE PANDY.
Left. Opposite Old Pandy Mill.
47. LOWER PANDY.
Left. Below Ford.
48. BESOM PITCH.
From Boat. From Fence to
Fence on Left Bank.
49. THE BINDING.
Left.
50. TROSTREY POUND.
From Boat.
51. TROSTREY WEIR.
Right.
52. WEIR POOL.
Either.
53. THE WHIBBS.
Right.
54. THE WITHY BED.
Either.
55. THE GARCOED.
Either.
56. LLYN-Y-COED.
Either.
57. UPPER PRIORAS.
Right.
58. LOWER PRIORAS.
Left.
59. HARRY GILES'S.
Either
60. TWM BICCA.
From Boat.
61. BELL POOL.
Left.
62. BELL POOL.
Right.
63. FLAX POOL.
Either.
64. PEN-Y-LLYN.
Either.
65. UPPER ROAD POOL.
Left.
66. MIDDLE ROAD POOL.
Either.
67. LOWER ROAD POOL.
Either.
68. UPPER PARKER'S HOLE.
Either.
69. LOWER PARKER'S HOLE.
Either.
70. BOAT CATCH.
Right.
71. ORCHARD.
Right.
72. PENCARREG.
Either. To Post.
73. LOWER PENCARREG.
Either. Below Post.

Usk Bridge

Usk Bridge

Right Bank.	74. RAIL-Y-DERRY. Either.	Left Bank.
	75. BATT'S HOLE. Right.	
	76. COED-Y-PRIOR. Right.	
	77. COEDY-PRIOR. Left.	Olway Brook
	78. LADY POOL. Right.	
	79. UPPER CROW: Left. To Post.	
	80. LOWER CROW. Left.	
	81. LWNCH. Either.	
	82. LOWER LWNCH Right.	
	83. RAICH. Either.	
	84. LOWER RAICH. Left.	
	85. DRAIN. Either.	
Llangibby Brook	86. UPPER SIGN. Either. To Post.	
	87. UPPER SIGN. Either. Below Post.	
	88. LOWER SIGN. Right. To Post.	
	89. LOWER SIGN. Right. Below Post.	
	90. DRAETH. Right.	
	91. REECH. Either.	
	92. STONE WALL. Either.	
	93. VOULAN. Right.	
	94. BRIDGE STREAM. Right. To Post.	
	95. BRIDGE POOL. Either.	
	96. LLYSTYN. Left.	
	97. POOL GARDNER. Either.	

Any one of the portions bracketed—(61-67) (68-73) (74-78) 79-82) (83-87)
(88-97)—is liable to be reserved for Mr. Hanbury, for any day.



The Ancient Bridge.

Formerly a wooden Bridge crossed the river nearly opposite Llanbaddock Church, for which the present one was substituted. The following old document connected with the present bridge was probably drawn up between the years 1746 and 1752, as some of the parties whose names are attached to it died about the last mentioned year, and Sir Leonard Williams, of Llangibby (the last of the baronets in the family), died at Usk, in 1758. Sir Leonard Williams and Sir Charles Hanbury-Williams at that time owned a large portion of Usk.

The Petition.

“To his Excellency, Sir Charles Hanbury-Williams,
Knight of the Bath.

“The humble petition of the Inhabitants of the Town and Burrough of Uske.

“Your humble petitioners beg leave, with the greatest deference and respect, and in the most sincere and submissive manner, to congratulate your Excellency upon your safe and happy arrival at Colebrooke; and it affords us the greatest pleasure imaginable to find (by the informations we have received) that your Excellency is so hearty and well, after so great a fatigue of business.

“And we beg leave to represent unto your Excellency, that the said Town and Burrough of Usk is an ancient Corporation, and that the public Wooden Bridge in the said town over the river of Usk, by reason of the heavy carriages, great floods happening in the same river, and the carriage of lime and coal by farmers, passing over and across the

said Bridge, the same had lately gone very much in decay, and into a most ruinous condition.

“That, according to the well-known laws of our country, your Petitioners ought, in justice, to have contribution from the County, towards repairing, supporting, and maintaining the said Publick Bridge; but, to the great hardship of, and burthen upon, your Petitioners, they have always hitherto been obliged, entirely at their own expense, to repair and maintain the same, without receiving the least contribution; and to add to this injustice, your Petitioners are obliged to pay and contribute largely towards other bridges, which, with other heavy taxes and burthens upon this poor deserted Corporation, your Petitioners are thereby greatly injured and oppressed.

“That your Petitioners having, for a long series of time, groaned under these hardships and difficulties, and not being able, by any ways or means whatever, to get rid of so great a burthen, your Petitioners caused a survey of the State and Condition of the said Bridge to be made by some experienced workmen, who reported that it was impracticable, and beyond skill to keep, support, and amend the same, and that a new bridge must be built, your Petitioners were, therefore, advised to have a stone bridge built which your Petitioners very much approved of, but were satisfied that they were quite unable to do so, without the kind assistance of some generous, well-disposed and benevolent persons.

“That your Petitioners, under these circumstances, willing to do everything in their power towards carrying on so good a work, a plan with an estimate of the expense of building such a Stone Bridge (amounting to £980) were made and drawn up. But your Petitioners being sensible they were utterly unable of themselves to raise any such sum of money, your Petitioners were therefore, advised and encouraged to set a General Subscription on foot, and to make their application to all benevolent and well-disposed persons, and in particular to his late Grace the Duke of Beaufort, and late Lord Windsor, each of whom became Subscribers, as likewise several worthy

Gentlemen of this County (whose names, with the sums they subscribed, your Petitioners humbly beg leave to annex and make part of this, their Petition), and your Petitioners, have, thereby, met with great assistance, particularly from your Excellencie's brother, the Hon. Mr. Capel Hanbury, to whom we are, in duty bound, to pray for his great generosity and goodness in divers matters relative to the said Bridge, and entering into a contract with an undertaker, for the building and compleating the same, that in consequence thereof, the Builder hath made so great a progress therein, it is apprehended the Bridge will be quite completed before the end of this summer, which will be of the greatest benefit and utility to all persons in general travelling this road, and in particular, to your distressed petitioners.

"Therefore, your Petitioners, sensible of your Excellencie's well known generosity, and goodness, have taken the liberty, in this manner, to petition your Excellency for your kind relief and assistance in the premisses, and your Petitioners humbly hope, and earnestly entreat your Excellency, that you would be graciously pleased to become a Subscriber towards compleating so good and publick an undertaking.

"AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, SHALL
EVER PRAY, &C.

Thomas Lewis
Phillip Powell.
Phill. Reese.
W. Green.
Thos. Williams
John Watkins.
W. Thomas.
Leonard Williams.
Abed. Pritchard.
Dd. Lewis.
Edward Prothero, jun.
Wm. Shepard.
Valentine Watkins.

William Williams.
J. Marshall.
Regd. Williams.
Richd. Jones.
William George.
John Harris.
Wm. West.
Phill. Morgan
Wm. Evans.
Rd. Holey.
Richd. Shepard.
Wm. Nicholas.
James Shepard.

SIR CHARLES HANBURY-WILLIAMS.

"By Order £20."

The Present Bridge.

A substantial stone bridge of five arches spans the river Usk at the foot of the principal street. This bridge was formerly very narrow and steep, and accidents were of rather frequent occurrence from the meeting of vehicles, there being barely sufficient width for one carriage to pass another between the kerb stones projecting from the parapets; and being destitute of footways, foot passengers, on the meeting of vehicles, were compelled to have recourse to the recesses formed on the piers to avoid injury. At this period the bridge was kept in repair by the town, and serious apprehensions were entertained that the structure would some day be entirely swept away by the force of the water during floods, which were frequent during the rainy season. In the year 1835, in consequence of the wheels of a waggon coming in contact with one of the kerb stones, a man was thrown from the top of a load of hay into the river and killed. This and other accidents induced the Magistrates in Sessions assembled, to take the state of the bridge into consideration. They consented to take the repairs of the bridge, and its approaches for one hundred yards in extent, upon the County, provided a sum of money was paid by the inhabitants of Usk and Llanbaddock to the County Treasurer. It was ultimately arranged to pay the sum of £200, which was raised between the parishes, and it became a County bridge. In 1836 it was widened four feet each side, and Mr. Morgan Thomas, of Laleston, Glamorganshire, had the contract. The extension enabled paved footpaths to be laid down, and the approaches were filled up to render the ascent more easy.



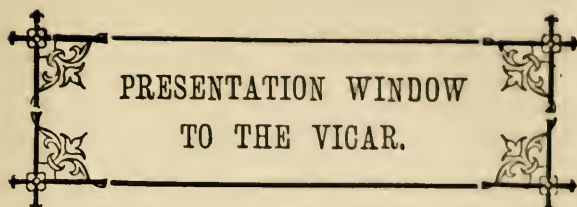
Roman Encampments.

In the vicinity of Usk are several ancient Roman Encampments. One in Craig-y-Gaercyd, about two miles from the town, on the east of the Pontypool Road, and over-hanging the river, has entrenchments in some places 30 feet deep, with several tumuli, within the area of from 15 to 20 feet in height. Two other camps are on the opposite side of the river, east of the high road to Abergavenny, that of CAMP-WOOD, two miles from the town, near Upper Llancao, on the common of Gwehelog, is of an oval shape, enclosed by a single fosse and vallum, 700 yards in circumference, overgrown with wood.

The encampment of COED-Y-BUNYDD is upon the summit of a commanding eminence at Clytha, five miles from Usk, on the right of the road shortly before arriving at the gateway of Clytha Court. It is 480 yards in circumference. The west and north sides are precipitous, bounded by one entrenchment; the other sides are fortified by triple ditches and ramparts. The entrance is covered by a tumulus, and some foundations of towers at each end may still be traced. It was originally strengthened with walls. The west side overlooks the Usk, and commands a beautiful view of the north parts of the County.

A tumulus is also to be seen in the grounds of Beech Hill, and another at Twyn Bell, in the parish of Llanbaddock. Other large camps are to be seen on Tymwar, or Great House Farm, in the parish of Llansoy, which overlooks the valley of the Olway brook extending to Llandenny and Raglan, and another at the Gaervawr in the parish of Newchurch, near the Golden Hill, on the Chepstow road.





In June 1889, it was suggested that a Subscription be raised for the purpose of placing a Stained Glass Window in Usk Church, by the Parishioners and Friends of the Rev. Stephen Cattley Baker, as a mark of regard and esteem, and also in commemoration of his indefatigable labour and zealous endeavours for the good of the Parish during the last 30 years.

The Rev. William Jones, Curate, and Messrs. J. H. Clark and James Davies, Churchwardens, took measures to raise the required sum, and their expectations were more than realized by the ready response to their applications.

SUBSCRIBERS

	£	s.	d.
Addis, Mr. H. A., Usk ...	0	10	0
Alexander, —, Esq., Goytre ...	0	10	6
Alexander, Charles A., Esq., Bristol ...	1	1	0
Arthur, Miss Caroline, Usk ...	0	5	0
Biggs, Mr. John, Oldwell, Penylan, Cardiff	1	0	0
Billingham, Mr. John, Usk ...	0	5	0
Bosanquet, S. C. Esq., Dingestow Court	1	1	0
Bosworth, Mrs. Caroline ...	0	5	0
Byrde, Mrs. C. Usk ...	0	2	0
Cadwallader, Mrs. E. H., Littleton ...	1	0	0
Charles, Mr. John, Usk ...	0	7	6
Cherry, Mr. John Tempest, Usk ...	1	0	0
Clark, Mr. & Mrs. James Henry, Usk ...	1	1	0
Clark, Miss, Usk ...	0	5	0
Clark, Miss Blanche, Usk ...	0	5	0
Clark, Miss, Chepstow ...	0	4	0
	21	c.	

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	£	s.	d.
Collis, Mrs., Killiney, Ireland	2	0 0
Dacey, Mr. John, Usk	0	5 0
Davies, Mrs. Oliver, Usk	1	1 0
Davies, Mr. Joseph, Bank, Usk ...	...	0	10 6
Davies, Mrs. James, Usk ...	...	0	5 0
Davies, Mrs. Henry, Usk ...	...	0	2 6
Davies, Mr. Wm., Woodbine, Usk ...	...	1	0 0
Davies, Mrs. Arthur, Usk ..	...	0	2 0
Davis, Mrs., Gosport ...	...	0	5 0
Davis, The Misses Lucy & Elsie ...	...	0	1 0
Dibbins, Mrs., and others ...	...	0	1 0
Dunn, Mrs. Jane N., The Willows, Usk...	...	1	1 0
Dunning, Mr. H., Usk ...	...	0	10 0
Edmunds, Mr. & Mrs. George, Usk ...	...	0	10 0
Edwards, Mr. Frank Dunn, Usk ...	...	0	5 0
Eleanor, Deaconess, Rhiw Castell, Usk	...	5	0 0
Eliot, Rev. W. N. G., Panteg ...	...	0	10 0
Freer, Mrs. .. ...	...	0	5 0
Friend ... ..	...	20	0 0
Friend ... ..	...	0	1 0
Frost, Mrs. Adam, Newport ...	...	0	2 0
Gething, Mrs. W. B., The Cedars ...	...	1	1 0
Gill, Miss, Cheltenham ...	...	0	10 0
Gray, Miss Emily, Usk ...	...	0	2 0
Griffin, Mr. Henry C., Usk ...	...	0	10 6
Gumm, Mrs., Usk ...	...	0	1 0
Harding, Mr. C. F., Usk ...	...	0	10 0
Harris, Mr. Fenton George, Usk ...	...	1	1 0
Hart, Mrs., Worcester Cottage, Usk ...	...	0	5 0
Irving, Rev. J. W., Newport Pagnell ...	...	0	10 0
Jenkins, Mrs., Tredegar ...	...	1	0 0
Jones, Rev. J., Cynddyan ...	...	0	5 0
Jones, Rev. William, Usk ...	...	0	10 6
Jones, Mrs. Mary, Usk ...	...	0	10 0
Jones, Mr. James, Usk ...	...	0	10 0
Jones, Mrs., (Tan Yard) ...	...	0	2 0
Jones, Mr. John, Bedford ...	...	0	2 6
Keats, Mr. & Mrs. James, Usk ...	...	1	0 0
King and Co., Gloucester ...	...	0	5 0
Lawrence, David, Esq., Porthycarne, Usk	...	2	2 0
Lake, Master Willie, Usk ...	...	0	1 0

	£	s.	d.
Lewis, Mrs., Baron Street, Usk ...	0	2	6
Lewis, Mrs. John, Church Street ...	0	2	0
Long, Miss., Usk ...	0	1	0
Marsh, Miss, Monmouth ...	1	1	0
Marsh Miss Susan, Monmouth ...	1	1	0
Marshall, Mrs. A., Monmouth ...	0	5	0
Mason, Mrs., Usk ...	0	2	0
Matthews, Miss, Gwehelog ...	0	5	0
Matthews, Miss Clara ...	0	2	6
Mattick, Mr. Joseph, Usk ...	0	2	6
Merrett, Mr. William, Liverpool ...	0	10	0
Merrett, The Misses, Usk ...	0	10	0
Messor, Mrs., and a friend, Usk ...	0	5	0
Miller, Mrs. & Miss, Usk ...	0	10	0
Miller, Mr. & Mrs. C. L., Usk ...	0	7	6
Morgan, Hon. F. C., Ruperra Castle ...	1	0	0
Morgan, Sergt. (the late) ...	0	2	6
Morgan, Mr. T. David, Hereford ...	0	10	6
Morgan, M. S., Mamhilad ...	0	1	0
Morgan, Miss B. ...	0	1	6
Morgan, Miss ...	0	1	0
Morgan, Mrs. C. ...	0	1	0
Morgan, Mr. R., Church Street ...	0	2	6
Morgan, Mrs. Ann, Usk ...	0	2	6
Mortimer, Mr. & Mrs., Usk ...	0	5	0
Mundy, Mr. & Mrs. George, Usk ...	1	0	0
Mundy, William & George, Usk ...	0	5	0
Nicholl, George Whitlock, Esq. The Ham ...	10	0	0
Nicholl, Miss, Lantwit Major ...	0	10	0
Nixon, Mr. J. R., Usk ...	0	10	0
Paine, Mrs. James Usk ...	0	2	6
Parker, James, Esq., Usk ...	1	1	0
Parker, Miss, Usk ...	1	1	0
Parker, Mr Richard, Rhadyr ..	0	5	0
Phillips, W. W., Esq., Raglan ...	1	1	0
Phillips, Mrs. William, Usk ...	1	1	0
Phillips, Miss Helen, Llanbadoc ...	0	10	6
Phillips, Miss Mary, ditto ...	0	10	6
Phillips, Miss A. M. S. ditto ...	0	10	6
Price, Mrs., Riverside, Usk ...	0	10	0
Priestley, Mr. J. H., Usk ...	1	1	0
Price, Rev. Wm., Llangwm Vicarage ...	0	10	0

	£	s.	d.
Price, Mrs. Jane, Baron Street, Usk ...	0	1	0
Prothero, Mrs. Usk ...	0	1	0
Rees, Rev. H., Llandogo ...	0	10	6
Rees, Mr. Thomas, Usk ...	0	5	0
Rees, Mr. Thomas, jun., Usk ...	0	2	6
Reynolds, Mrs., Usk ...	0	2	0
Roberts, Miss, Usk ...	0	5	0
Roberts, Miss Eliza, Kensington ...	0	10	0
Roberts, Miss Harriet, Kensington ...	1	0	0
Roberts, Miss E. C., Usk ...	0	5	0
Roberts, Mrs. William, Usk ...	0	1	0
Roberts, Miss E., ditto ...	0	2	0
Roberts, Mrs. William, jun. ..	0	2	0
Rogers, Mr. Richard A., Usk ...	0	5	0
Salisbury, Rev. C. T., Tredunnoch ...	0	10	0
Satchell, Mr. Richard, Llanbadoc ...	1	1	0
Seal, Mrs.	0	1	0
Shepardson, Mrs., Monkswood ...	0	2	6
Sims, Mrs., Usk ...	1	1	0
Skipp, Mr. T. Usk (the late) ...	0	2	6
Skinner, T. M. Esq., Monmouth ..	0	10	6
Smith, Mr. George, Usk ...	0	2	6
Smith, Mrs. Ann, Usk ...	0	2	0
Spencer, Mr., Graigolway ...	0	5	0
Stephens, Mr. W. E. & Mrs., Usk ...	0	5	0
Symonds, Mr. ...	0	2	0
Taylor, Mrs. ...	0	2	6
Thomas, Mr. Rees, Victoria Villa ...	1	1	0
Trotman, Mrs., Llanbadoc ...	0	1	0
Voyce, Mr. C., The Rosary, Usk ...	1	1	0
Wyatt, Lady, Dimlands, Glamorgan ...	5	0	0
Watkins, Thomas, Esq., Usk ...	1	1	0
West, Miss Jane ...	0	5	0
West, Misses S. & L. ..	0	7	6
Wilks, Mr. W., Goytre ...	0	5	0
Williams, P. A., Esq., The Helmaen ...	2	2	0
Williams, Mrs. Anne ...	0	2	6
Williams, Mr. & Mrs. Edward, Llanusk... ..	0	10	0
Wise, Mrs.	0	1	0
Wood, Mr. Wm., Pontypool ...	0	10	6
Workman, Mr. W. ...	0	2	0
Wyatt, O. A., Esq., Monmouth ...	0	10	0

It is satisfactory to the Donors that nothing could have afforded more gratification to the kind-hearted Vicar than the project adopted. The following extract from the Vicar's letter to the promoters testify that no token of esteem could have pleased him better than a Stained Glass Window in the Church in which he has so long and faithfully officiated. He says:—

"You may well suppose that the subject of your communication of yesterday has given me the greatest possible gratification, not only from the kind feeling shewn towards myself, which I so greatly value as coming from those among whom I have so long ministered, and other friends, but also from the pleasing promise it holds out of conferring a permanent improvement in the Church of which I have had the pastoral charge during the largest part of my ministerial life of nearly 52 years.

"You kindly ask my consent to placing a Window in Usk Church. This I am only too happy to give; and you further ask me to 'make you acquainted with any preference I may have as to the Window.

In reply to a further letter from the promoters the Vicar wrote:—

"It would be most gratifying to my feelings if this kind act of my friends were made the occasion for doing what I have long wished, had it been in my power, to do, viz.: place a Window in the Church to the honoured memory of those departed ones so dear to me, and whose loving exertions in the Parish are still held in affectionate remembrance by many. I would, therefore, propose as the prominent subject for the Window, a proper REPRESENTATION OF MARTHA AND MARY IN ATTENDANCE ON OUR LORD."

The Window was placed in the South side of the Church between the Pulpit and the Communion Table; and a

SPECIAL FORM OF SERVICE

for the Dedication took place on the following day, Wednesday, December 18th, 1889.

The Rev W. Jones (Curate), Rev. T. Hall (Llandenny), and the Rev. W. N. G. Eliot, R.D. (of Panteg) took part in the service, which commenced by the Choir singing Hymn 538 *Hymnal Companion*, "Pour out Thy Spirit from on high," followed by

the Lord's Prayer. Mr. Hall read the Lesson—1 Chron. xxix., 6-18—which was followed by a prayer and Hymn 42, "Lord, cause Thy face on us to shine." The Rev. W. N. G. Eliot having gone to the Reading Desk, Mr. James Henry Clark stood before him and as representative of the Donors said :—

"We have caused a Window to be placed in God's House, and our humble desire is that it may be dedicated to the Honour of God by your prayer, according to the Word of God and the custom of this Church."

Priest : "While it remained was it not thine own, and before it is given to God was it not in thine own power? but when once you give it to God it can never be recalled, but it is His for ever."

Donor : "We humbly desire He will be graciously pleased to receive it, and that it may remain His own, for His service and His Honor for ever."

After some further prayers, and the singing of Hymn 109, "Go, labour on; spend and be spent," the Rev. W. N. G. Eliot delivered a most appropriate address.

In the course of his remarks the Rural Dean referred to the beautiful work of our forefathers in the Churches, which were decorated for the honour and glory of God. Time after time, year after year, he said, it had been that men with loving hearts and skilful hands had planned, designed, and executed in a marvellous way such works, so that they spoke to them that day of their art and skill. If they had lived in the earlier times, doubtless they would have seen, not perhaps, such good glass as they had there that day, but that House of God richly painted and decorated to set forth different rules for different people to grasp. For long it had been put into the hearts of men and women to dedicate those gifts to God, knowing that in honouring God's House they were honouring God. The rev. gentleman then referred to the great skill, wisdom, and power put forth to this end in the time of King David. When he looked upon such a gift he thought it had been a preacher always standing—always sending forth some truth; something which, if they had the eyes to see and the minds to understand, should be to them a continual feast. If the dedications of past time spoke to them of God's people of old, surely a modern Window, with its modern associations, spoke to them of God's

people of these days—of those who were still striving to walk, it might be at a distance, in the footprints—in the footsteps of God's saints of old—who were still mounting that ladder which should enable them at last to glorify God in that "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Those gifts told them of people who had lived in this generation, whom they had known, whom they had met in the flesh and blood, whom they had revered and loved. And, surely, if it told them this, it might tell them of those things *they* had loved. That Window reminded them of the joy, the peace, and the comfort they received from the light of this world, and led them on to think of the Light of the World—to them a source of joy and strength. When they looked at that Window, saw its colours, and considered it as a work, it was but a lifeless thing—merely a picture; but it was the image of the Lamp of Light, and led them to think of Him Who said He was the "Light of the World." The rev. gentleman proceeded to say that it was a very proper commemoration of the services of him who had been for thirty years the Vicar of that parish, and that it fulfilled the wish of his heart. The Window was not merely to light the story but (as the old poet had said), "doctrine and life, colour and light, all in one unite."

The artists for the Window were Messrs. Joseph Bell and Sons, of College Green, Bristol, and the execution of their work gave great satisfaction. The groups of figures are brought out in clear and glowing colours, whilst the architectural surroundings are filled in with great judgment and taste. The Window is a splendid work of art, and the scenes it depicts—incidents connected with our Lord's life on earth, as shewn by the inscription of the text under each of the four principal panels: "Mary hath chosen that good part," "The Master is come and calleth for thee," "She arose and cometh unto Him," and "She hath done what she could"—being brought out with beautiful expression, and in the most choice colours. The three upper panels contain the arms of the Charterhouse School, where the Vicar was educated; of St. John's College, Cambridge, where he matriculated; and the arms of York, where he was ordained.

The brass plate under the Window is inscribed:—

"To the Glory of God.

"This Window was placed in Usk Church, Christmas, 1889, by the parishioners and friends of the Rev. Stephen Cattley Baker, B.A., R.D., as a token of esteem after a pastoral charge of thirty years."

On the following Sunday morning the Rev. S. C. Baker (Vicar) was the preacher at the Church of St. Mary, Usk. The rev. gentleman took for his text Heb. xiii., 17. "They watch for your souls as they that must give an account." After an exposition of this text and its application to the ministry under the three heads, "Souls," "Watch," and "Give account," the Vicar quoted the words of St. Paul, "I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God," and then proceeded to say:—

Dear brethren, parishioners of Usk, this has been my aim among you. I have desired to keep back nothing that is profitable unto you, shewing you and testifying repentance towards God and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts xx., 20, 27). St. Paul spoke these words with reference to a space of only three years (verse 31). "Watch," said he, "and remember that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears." But if this great Apostle so felt and so spake with reference to a period of three years, what must mine be, a humble successor in the work, on a review of ten times that period?—the thirty years that I have ministered to you in this House of God. This is a period during which, I may say, almost all my original congregation have passed away; few and far between are those now living who heard my first sermon, and "I continue to this day." I can only say as St. Paul himself did, "Who is sufficient for these things?" I am sometimes oppressed with an overwhelming sense of the magnitude of the responsibility and my own ministerial insufficiency in the view of the strict and solemn account to be rendered up, and the long reckoning for this long period. And you, my dear friends, who have so kindly recognized the length of my service by what you are good enough to call "a token of esteem" entertained towards myself—you have called forth anew this deep sense of responsibility which the retrospect of so long a period gives rise to, mingling solemnity with the seasonable joy of this Christmastide. Most grateful am I and most pleased that you have beautified our fine old Church with so rich a window, and in a spot of my own choosing, near that of my ministrations. But that you should make this enduring ornament a Testimonial Window to myself is a kindness and a compliment that I never could have expected, and which, as far as I know, is very rarely shewn to a living man. Memorial Windows are, of course, not unusual when any one respected or beloved has passed away. And now in my 77th year, this solemn thought comes over me that it cannot be long ere this "Testimonial" Window will become a "Memorial"

Window indeed. And such, even now, it may be called; for you, my dear friends, in so kindly allowing me to select the subject, have filled its four lights with designs which relate (as you say) "To the waiting of Martha and Mary upon our Lord," and thus caused the Window to be, according to my wish, a Memorial Window sacred to the cherished memory of those very dear to me, and who bore those names, Mary and Martha; who not only aided me and encouraged me effectually in every ministerial work, but who each by her own good works, as Vicar's wife, endeared herself to so many in the parish. What I have first and foremost to be thankful for is the marvellous mercy that has permitted me to give to God and His Church the prolonged service, here and elsewhere, of 52 years; and that He has granted me on the whole good health and strength for continued work. For this I do thank God earnestly and daily. Next I offer my thanksgivings to God that after a previous ministry of 22 years, elsewhere and in this diocese, God has spared me to be your pastor for 30 years. I cannot but feel that it is the length chiefly of this engagement in your service that you are now so substantially recognizing. For myself I could be content to be personally forgotten, if I could be well assured that there are names written in Heaven of some of the parishioners, who have through my ministry been brought to Christ, and who will be among those whom it would be my joy and crown to meet in another world. But you have most kindly determined that my name shall be not quite lost sight of, but sometimes be mentioned after I am gone. May such a remembrance of me, by those now living, recall some of the truths I have taught, and revive some of the impressions made, and in years to come may my memory be honoured chiefly for the sake of the Gospel of the grace of God, which in this Church I have so often had the privilege of proclaiming. And may those who come after us be told that the Vicar whose name this Window keeps in remembrance, was simply a faithful servant of the Church of England, and of her Divine Master and Head; one who, in watching for souls, through his long ministry adhered strictly to her holy doctrines and her unchanged ritual; and who, unaffected as I hope I am and shall be, by the novelties which one and another introduces, and which are ever starting up and changing with the whim and fashion of the day, sought only to teach and live according to the glorious Gospel of the Blessed God and the pure teaching of our Church. May the Vicar of this your day be ever so regarded, and if remembered in days to come may it be for the sake of the Master, whom, through evil report and good report, he has ever sought to serve and follow, however imperfectly and far off. And now in closing I have only affectionately to thank you, the kind donors of this Window, for what you have done, and specially for the

prayers on my behalf that you offered at the Dedication of the Window last Wednesday. May I, according to your petition that day, be "endued with God's Holy Spirit, enriched with His heavenly grace and clothed with righteousness." May "the word spoken by my mouth have such success that it may never be spoken in vain, so that faithfully fulfilling my course, at the latter day I may receive the Crown of Righteousness laid up by the Lord the Righteous Judge, who liveth and reigneth one God with the Father and Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen."

Next to the stained window just described, is another placed on the other side of the pulpit by Mr. Henry W. Ross Greatwood, surgeon, of Usk, to the memory of his wife and son. The subjects of the two centre lights are Lazarus raised from the dead, "Lazarus come forth," St. John xi, 43 v., and Christ blessing little children, "Suffer little children to come unto Me." Over the centre of these principal lights is the "Ascension" between the "Alpha" and "Omega." At the base of the lights are the following inscriptions.—"In memory of Emma Greatwood, died Feb. 8, 1849," and "In memory of F. R. Greatwood, died Nov. 9, 1863." More recently the inscription "In memory of Henry W. R. Greatwood, died July 30, 1885," was added by his daughter, Mrs. W. B. Gething, of the Cedars, Llanbadoc.

The large west stained window placed by the Portreeve and Burgesses of the Borough in 1883, has been already described at page 116.

Underneath the Window is a brass tablet inscribed :
 This Window is erected in Commemoration of a Charter granted by Sir Roger de Mortimer in the year 1398, to the Burgesses of Usk, by which many privileges, powers, and exemption of Tolls were enjoyed. Under the powers of the Municipal Corporation Act of 1883, the Corporation was abolished on the 29th of September, 1886, and a scheme framed to transfer its Revenues to the Local Board of Usk, to be expended as heretofore in the IMPROVEMENT OF THE TOWN.

JAMES HENRY CLARK, PORTREEVE.



There are several monuments affixed to the walls of the church. One is to the memory of Roger Edwards, a benefactor to the town and neighbourhood, which is thus inscribed :—

THIS MONUMENT was erected in the year 1822, to commemorate the laudable charities of ROGER EDWARDS of Llangwm Ucha, in this county, Gent., who died March 28, 1624. He devised various estates in this county to the following purposes, viz.:—The maintenance and clothing of 12 poor persons of Llangwm Ucha, Gwerneſney, and Llangeview : for whose residence he built an Almshouse in the latter parish, giving a stipend to a Clergyman to read prayers every week.—The distribution of £10 annually to the poor of Usk.—The endowment of a Free Grammar School in this town : with a salary and residence rent free to the Master, and £5 a year to settle a poor scholar of the said school at Oxford : to which a Writing School has been added by a decree of the Court of Chancery.—He also devised the annual rent of Tyrlay farm in the parish of Llangwm Ucha, in certain proportions to the poor of that parish, Llangeview and Gwerneſney. These good works are the lasting records of his piety.

Among the other monuments are the following :

TO THE MEMORY of EDWARD, youngest son of THOMAS PROTHERO, Gent, and ANN his wife, who departed this life the 29th day of April, 1819, aged 20.—Also of JANE, fourth daughter of the above-named Thomas and Ann Prothero. She died the 17th day of August, 1820, aged 22, and of SAMUEL BROWNE PROTHERO their son, who died the 20th day of September 1820, aged 28.

SOPHIA PROTHERO, Æ 26.

To the Memory of THOMAS PROTHERO, late of this Town, Gentleman, who died on the 25th day of July, 1819, aged 65 years. A grateful affectionate, and dutiful tribute by his widow and surviving Children.

In Memory likewise of ANN, widow of the above-named Thomas Prothero, who departed this life on the 10th of April, 1844, aged 78 years.

SACRED to the Memory of ELLEN PROTHERO, who departed this life January 30, 1824, aged 19 years.

ALSO, MARY ELIZABETH PROTHERO, who departed this life February 3, 1826, aged 25 years.

And of Rhoda Pierce who departed this life Sept. 11, 1837.

This Tablet was erected by their affectionate mother,
ANN SAUNDERS.

Ann, relict of the above Thomas Prothero, secondly married the Rev. John Saunders, Master of Usk Grammar School, which he held until Nov. 8th, 1826, when he resigned, and died August 15th, 1831, aged 71 years.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. ELIZABETH REECE, wife of Mr. Philip Reece, of this Town, who departed this life April 16, 1788, aged 67 years.

SACRED to the Memory of the REV. HENRY ROGERS, of this town, many years Rector of Gwernesney, in this county and of Llanhamlech, in the county of Brecon, who died June the 1st, 1878, aged 61 years.

This Mr. Rogers lived in the house now belonging to Mr. Nicholl, of the Ham, near Cowbridge, at present occupied by Mr. H. S. Gustard. He was step-father to the wife of the late Mr. Iltyd Nicholl, and bequeathed to her that house and other property in the parish of Usk. He preached a Welsh Sermon in Usk Church in 1750, the last sermon preached in Cymraeg in that edifice.

IN grateful and loving remembrance of MARY ELIZABETH, Widow of THOMAS REECE of Porthycarne. She died July 30, 1866, aged 76 years. AND in affectionate memory of their daughter MARY ELIZABETH, who died July 11, 1846, in the 13th year of her age.

"I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish." St. John, ch. x, v. 28.

Mr. Thomas Reece, who was Married to Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Colonel Jones, built Porthycarne House, which was completed for his residence in 1833.

SACRED to the Memory of MAJOR KNOWLES KINSEY, who died 8th August, 1758, aged 74 years.

FRANCES KINSEY, wife of Robert Kinsey, of Usk, who died 5th July, 1781.

ROBERT KINSEY, son of the above named Major Knowles Kinsey, who died 8th August, 1791.

Also Three Children of the above named Robert Kinsey.

MILES BASSETT KINSEY died in India, aged 24 years.

REBECCA KINSEY, who died 21st July, 1839.

ELIZABETH KINSEY, who died 9th Feb. 1841.

IN Memory of WILLIAM PRITCHARD, of the Three Salmons, and of MARY, his wife, who both died in 1829, and of MARY THOMAS, their daughter, who died in 1859.

SACRED to the Memory of JANE, wife of Henry Matthews of this Town, Gentleman, who departed this life the 17th day of March, 1811, in the 40th year of her age, and lies interred under this seat. This Tablet, an unavailing tribute of affection, is erected by her disconsolate Husband, as a lasting memorial of her virtues.

Also to the Memory of the aforesaid HENRY MATTHEWS, died March 31, 1845, aged 74 years.

IN Memory of HENRY PENOYRE, WILLIAM, and THOMAS PENOYRE, three sons of Henry Matthews, gentleman.

IN Memory of ANN, wife of William Matthews, attorney, their two sons SAMUEL JAMES and WILLIAM HENRY, who died in their infancy, and ANN KENTISH CORDELIA, their daughter.

In the Churchyard there are several very handsome Tombs, among the principal of which are those belonging to the Nicholl family.

A massive Aberdeen granite one records the death of ILTYD NICHOLL, born July 19th, 1785; died October 22nd, 1871; and ELEANOR, his Wife, born 1778; died February 19th, 1850.

An adjoining Tomb records the death of the Rev. ILTYD NICHOLL, eldest son of the foregoing, born April

5th, 1814 ; died February 11th, 1867. Also of his Wife, AUGUSTA JANE, born December 17th, 1817 ; died July 3rd, 1851. And their Daughter and only child, AUGUSTA JANE, born May 19th, 1848 ; died April 23rd, 1850.

Another Tomb of Wicklow granite is to the memory of WILLIAM HENRY NICHOLL, youngest Son of Iltyd Nicholl, Esq., who died October 21st, 1870.

An Aberdeen and Wicklow granite Tomb is also in the group, recording the death of Sir MATTHEW DIGBY WYATT, Son-in-law of Mr. Nicholl, born July 28th, 1820 ; died May 21st, 1877.

Near the same spot is a Tomb composed of large slabs of Wicklow and Aberdeen granite, with an anchor of granite, to commemorate the decease of HENRY WILLIAM FRANCIS GREATWOOD, who died July 30th, 1885 ; EMMA GREATWOOD, his Wife, who died February 8th, 1849 ; and FRANCIS ROSS GREATWOOD, their Son, who died November 9th, 1863.

Other Tombs record the deaths of :—

RICHARD BROWN RODEN, who died in Corsica, March 5th, 1887, aged 55 years.

THOMAS REECE, of Porthycarne House, died October 8th, 1853, aged 71 years ; MARY ELIZABETH, his Wife ; and MARY ELIZABETH, their Daughter, who died in the 13th year of her age.

Near the west entrance to the Church is a handsome granite Tomb to the memory of EDWARD PARKER, who died September 2nd, 1881, aged 85 ; and MARY, his Wife, who died March 1st, 1871.

Near the west entrance gate is a noble monolith of granite, to the memory of JAMES WILLIAMS, Merchant, of this town.

The following record is also to be found in the Churchyard :—

UNDERNEATH this Tomb lyeth the remains of RACHEL wife of Philip Mason, of this town, died November 25th, 1769, Aged 46 years.

Also, the above PHILIP MASON, died May 11th, 1772, Aged 52 years, WEIGHING 554 LBS !!!

In addition to the remarks at page 24, the following extract from *The Architect*, by Stephen W. Williams, F.R.I.B.A., Rhayader, is here given :—

“ARCHITECTURAL NOTES UPON USK CHURCH.

“The Priory Church of St. Mary, at Usk, illustrates the growth of some of our larger Parish Churches, from the original Norman building of moderate size down to the end of the Perpendicular period, when it probably attained its largest dimensions, before the dissolution of the Monasteries in the time of Henry VIII.

“This Priory of Benedictine Nuns was founded by Earl Richard de Clare, the well-known Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Striguil, whose uncle, Walter de Clare, was the founder of Tintern Abbey; and it appears from an entry in the valuation of its revenues made at the dissolution of the Priory, about 1535, that £1 was to be expended annually “upon Sherethursday in alms to pray for the founders, viz., Sir Richard de Clare, Sir Gilbert, his son, Earles of the Marches,” and for other descendants and benefactors.

“The date of the foundation of the Priory can therefore be fixed approximately about the early part of the twelfth century, say 1135 or thereabouts. The architecture of the original Norman Church, of which there are considerable remains, most certainly dates from a much earlier period; and I think the cruciform Church as shown in the plan accompanying this paper, may have been built about the middle of the eleventh century, or, at any rate, very soon after the Norman Conquest. Of the early Norman Church there remain the south wall of the nave, with its massive south western buttress of early type, which distinctly marks the length of the original nave, a portion of the west wall of the north transept, and the very fine central tower carried upon four massive piers, with its circular angle stair turret, approached from the north transept. Externally can be traced the water-tables of the roofs of the choir, north and

south transepts, which probably extended as shown by the dotted lines and shading upon the plan.

"The groining over what is now the chancel, in the interior of the tower, is carried upon angle corbels, and is of distinctly early Norman type. The tower itself is built in three stages, and is, I believe, of the same period as the nave and transepts to the top of the corbel-table; the battlements are modern.

"I am of opinion that the early cruciform Norman Church was the original Parish Church of Usk; that upon the founding of the Priory by Earl Richard, about 1135, considerable additions were then made so as to accommodate the parishioners, as well as the conventual establishment; the north aisle was also built at that period for use as a Parish Church, and the original Norman nave was lengthened about ten feet or so, as shown on the plan by the dotted lines and lighter shading, indicating early English or transitional Norman work.

"On the plan which is now in the Church, showing the alterations made in 1844, a buttress is shown which appears to have been taken down when the nave was further lengthened at that time, and which, I think, marks the limit of the west wall of the nave before the latest alterations were made. This buttress is in line with the west wall of the north aisle. It will be seen on reference to the plan that the arcade is of the same period as the north aisle, and that when it was built the north and west walls of the early Norman Church were taken down; but, doubtless, the transepts and choir were retained; the east wall of the north aisle was at the same period pierced for a doorway giving access to the north transept, which then, as now, was probably used as a vestry. At the same time, I believe, the doorway now blocked up in the south wall of the nave was opened to give access from the Church to the conventual buildings and cloisters; in the original Norman Church the entrance would be by a west doorway, probably of very rich design, as at Chepstow Church. The

arcade, which is of transitional Norman, or very early English type, consists of four obtusely-pointed arches, carried on circular piers and responds, with moulded caps and plain splayed bases.

"It will be observed, upon reference to the drawing that the pillar marked C, the first from the east end, is different from the others in having four slender attached shafts, and I think that this difference was intended to mark the line of the chancel of the Parish Church, and that probably the door at the north-eastern angle of the aisle was the priest's door. If we assume that a screen extended the whole length of the arcade, it will be seen that the north aisle then becomes a separate Church for the parishioners of Usk, as was the case at Leominster Priory Church,

"The next important addition made was in the Perpendicular period; and from the character of the work, I think the additions of this period, which consist of the north and west porches, the insertion of three windows in the north wall, and the same number in the south wall, were probably made about the latter end of the fifteenth century, and are of a type common in this district. It appears to me that this was about the time when the later alterations were made, a period of great Church restoration throughout Monmouthshire and part of Glamorganshire, and that the work was done by the same men who built the beautiful Perpendicular Churches of Somersetshire.

"The later additions and windows introduced in 1844 are, unfortunately, but inferior copies in point of detail of the older and much richer Perpendicular work, and this is especially noticeable in the tracery of the new west window. It seems unfortunate that the builders in 1844 were unable to restore and rebuild the transepts and choir, instead of lengthening the nave westward, which has destroyed the original proportions of this fine old Church, and it is to be hoped that if any further enlargement or restoration be attempted, that it should in that case result in rebuilding the choir and transepts.

"No doubt excavations in the Priory grounds would lay bare the original foundations of the missing portions of the early Norman Church."

The arms on the north porch of the Church, surmounted with an Earl's crown, probably belonged to Richard Strongbow, Earl of Striguil (Chepstow) and Lord of Pembroke, who was the Conqueror of Ireland, and married Eva, daughter of the King of Leinster. He died in Dublin, May, 1176, and was buried in Christchurch Cathedral, in that city, where a tomb with a full-length figure is placed in the southern wall.

The Roman Catholic Church.

Was erected by subscription, and was opened in 1847. The estimate for its erection was about £1,380. It was commenced on the 27th of August, 1846, which day is remarkable in the Catholic annals of Usk as the anniversary of the martyrdom of Father Charles Baker, S.J., who was executed here, on the spot, it is supposed, where Porthycarne House now stands, and within fifty yards of the site of the Church. His relics were deposited in Usk Churchyard. The Church is a neat stone building in the Gothic style, and is fitted up with an organ. The principal altar is carved in Caen stone. The Lady Chapel contains a small but handsome altar, also in Caen stone. The Church is dedicated to St. Francis Xavier, and will accommodate about 200 persons. The site for the structure was given by Francis McDonnell, Esq., father of the present proprietor of Plas Newydd.

Dissenting Chapels.

There are several Dissenting places of worship in the town. The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel is situate in Maryport Street, and was erected in 1817. The Baptist Chapel, in Old Market Street, was erected in 1842; and the Independent or Congregational, on the Twyn, was rebuilt in 1862, on which occasion Mrs. Eleanor Thomas, the wife of the pastor, laid the foundation stone, on the 19th of June.

The Gaol.

The Gaol is a commodious building erected in 1841 upon the plan of the model prison at Pentonville. It is upon the separate system, and has capacious exercise yards and work sheds. The trades of rug and mat making, tailoring, shoe-making, etc., are carried on within the walls. It is lighted with gas, and each prisoner has the benefit of a light in his cell. The chaplain performs duty every morning, and afterwards visits the prisoners in their cells. There is also a surgeon attached to the establishment. The prison contains 200 cells, and is capable of accommodating 150 male and 50 female prisoners. The successive governors have been Mr. John Merrett, salary £90; matron, Mrs. Merrett, salary £30. They were succeeded by Mr. W. H. Bosworth and his wife, at a salary of £200 and £30 respectively. Mr. Bosworth died during his governorship, and Mrs. Bosworth receives a pension of £55 13s. per annum. Captain Alston and General Milman were successively appointed governors, and the management of the prison was then placed by the prison authorities in the hands of Mr. J. Dacey.

The Court House.

The Court House was opened on the 16th of October, 1877, and up to that time had cost £13,500. On the basement are two reception cells, gaoler's lobby, passage leading to dock, w.c., and heating chamber. On the ground floor—the criminal court, civil court, grand jury room, clerk of indictment's room, witnesses going before the grand jury, passage leading to grand jury box, gas meter closet, w.c. and lavatory, witnesses' room, private room, magistrates' room, clerk of peace's room, locked-up jury room, retiring room, two muniment rooms, counsel's room, five w.c.'s and lavatory, cloak closet, two public entrances to galleries, hall-keeper's cottage, parlour, kitchen, pantry, yard and out-buildings,



Coleford, Monmouth, Usk, and
Pontypool Railway.

On Friday, the 1st of October, 1852, a meeting was held at the Town Hall, Usk, to consider the propriety of forming a railway from the Forest of Dean by way of Coleford, Monmouth, and Usk to Pontypool. The objects of the projectors were to unite, by a direct line, the Iron Works of South Wales with the valuable iron ores of the Forest of Dean, and to offer the most direct route between the populous mining districts lying between Merthyr and Pontypool (embracing a population of from 250,000 to 300,000) and the Metropolis, saving a distance of fourteen miles.

After contending against the powerful opposition of the Great Western Company for some months, by the energy and perseverance of Crawshay Bailey, Esq., M.P., Chairman of the Directors; Thomas Brown, Esq., Vice-Chairman, and his Grace the Duke of Beaufort, the Bill was passed in August, 1853.

On Wednesday, April 11th, 1854, the cutting of the first sod on the Coleford, Monmouth, Usk, and Pontypool Railway was celebrated right joyously,

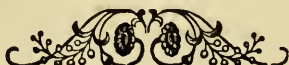
no pains having been previously spared to give *eclat* to the ceremony. There is an old adage respecting "All work and no play," etc., that has from time immemorial been held a truism upon which to ground many a festivity in connection with great public works. The promoters of the railway very properly conformed to the spirit of the adage; for we find that the occasion was deemed a fitting one to give the hardy fellows who were to commence operations with pick and spade, in connection with the public at large, a capital merry-making in celebration of the cutting of the first turf. A programme of sports was announced, in which a coracle race on the Usk, and donkey and mule races, climbing a slippery pole, chasing a pig with a greased tail, and other rural and laughter-provoking amusements were to be the chief features, after the most important business of raising the sod should have taken place. The field selected was on the Rhadyr Farm, in the occupation of Mr. Gething, through which the railway proceeds; and towards the locality, during the morning, large numbers of holiday folk wended their way, all appearing full of pleasant anticipations respecting the forthcoming pastimes. This railway was contemplated to extend from Coleford through Monmouth, Raglan, and Usk, to a junction with the Hereford, Abergavenny, Pontypool, and Newport railway, near the Little Mill station; from which point it would communicate directly with Pontypool, Newport, and the Eastern Valleys—radiating, also, into the Crumlin Valley, by the proposed loop line. The South Wales Company's intended railway from Monmouth to Newport, was thus to be superseded by this railway; but the portion from Coleford to Monmouth was not carried out. At about ten o'clock Mr. David Jones, the engineer, Messrs. Richards, Giles, and Gaskill, the contractors, with numerous other gentlemen, proceeded from Usk to the Rhadyr Farm, where the spot was marked out, on which to

commence operations. Here, in one of the most picturesque and lovely valleys of the Usk, and at a point where the intended line, across meadows, stream, and river, will permit the enjoyment of a splendid panorama of Monmouthshire scenery, the initiatory steps were taken to accomplish the new roadway of the "iron horse." A large number of persons had assembled on the ground; on one side were the sturdy navvies, eager to commence operations; on another, hosts of anxious spectators. In the centre of a group of ladies, the contractors, Messrs. Richards, Giles, and Gaskill, and some of their men, were prepared with spade, wheelbarrow, and plank, to receive from the sod-turner, Mrs. J. H. Clark, of Usk, the newly-cut turf; and at half-past one o'clock this ceremony was performed, amidst enthusiastic cheering, led off by the stentorian voice of Mr. Miles, of the Little Mill. The first sod having been placed in the wheelbarrow and taken along the plank, the corks from champagne fled out in rapid succession, and "Success to the Railway!" was drunk amidst renewed cheering. The sports of the day then commenced—boy races for small stakes were followed by man races for larger prizes; and a steeple chase, and a hurdle and flat race, were admirably contested for by some fleet runners from Abergavenny, Usk, and the neighbourhood. The climbing of the greased pole induced shouts of laughter; but the climbers had no success—they could not reach "the height of their ambition;" the pig chase was a failure—the fat and lazy animal being very little inclined to run hard; and so, getting withdrawn, had the pleasure of saving his bacon; but the "Jerusalem pony" race was the best fun of all, and might fairly be described as a fair and honest competition. The chief prize was borne off by a Raglan donkey, amidst repeated huzzas. The dinner afterwards took place at the Three Salmons Hotel, which was numerously attended, and presided over by Mr. Wm. Treharne

Rees. There were also present :—Mr. David Jones, the engineer of the railway ; Mr. P. E. Donaldson, C.E., Mr. Alex. Waddington, Mr. John Cox ; Messrs. G. Gaskill, Wm. Richards, and Richard Giles, contractors, Mr. W. G. Rees, Mr. James Wightman, Mr. Thomas Dunn, Mr. Benjamin Conway, Mr. Edward Fenton, Mr. T. Edwards (Raglan), Mr. W. Price, Mr. P. Herbert, Mr. Bosworth, and Mr. J. H. Clark (Usk), Mr. H. Evans (Llandowlais), Mr. Warren Evans, Mr. J. Williams, Mr. Henry Shepard, Mr. Alexander J. Shepard, Mr. Scriven, Mr. Charles Jordan, Mr. William Clements, Mr. H. P. Williams, Mr. T. P. Williams, Mr. John Jones, Mr. Horace Shepard, Mr. Salter, Mr. Bull, Mr. Walkinshaw, Mr. Hancock, Mr. Crump, Mr. John Edwards, Mr. James, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Richard Miles, Mr. Wm. Williams, Mr. Thomas Mitchell, Mr. T. E. Williams, Mr. John Cathcart, etc., etc. The cloths having been removed, the Chairman gave the usual loyal toasts which were fervently pledged. The Chairman then called upon the company to fill a bumper. He knew they would all cordially respond to the toast which he was about to give them—"The Directors of the Railway," the first sod of which had that day been cut, (cheering.) The directors were men who did not promise to do a thing, and afterwards leave it undone. When he had first heard them named he was perfectly satisfied the work would be thoroughly and well carried out, and he was sure the railway would remunerate those who had embarked their capital in it. (Hear, hear.) He begged to couple the name of their excellent Secretary of the Company, Mr. Waddington, with the toast ; a more efficient and trustworthy gentleman than whom could not be found to carry out the duties devolving on him. Mr. T. P. Williams led the "honours," and the toast of the Directors and Secretary, and others connected with the undertaking, and who had officiated that day, were pledged in bumpers with three times three.

On Monday, the 2nd of June, 1856, the first four miles from its junction with the Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford Railway, at Little Mill, was opened to the town of Usk. A procession, with bands and banners, proceeded to the station, and escorted the Directors into the town. The town presented a gay appearance, flags were unfurled from nearly every house in Bridge-street, and wreaths of evergreens were extended across the street.

The expectations of the inhabitants of the district as to the facilities of traffic and the improvement of the town, however, have not been realized by the railway management. When the shareholders handed over their interest to the Great Western Railway Company it was expected that the line would be better managed, and better accommodation given; but the inhabitants have experienced no such benefits. The service of trains for Usk and Monmouth is not at all as convenient as it should be, and the miserable hut called a station, without waiting rooms and with very little protection from the inclemency of the weather, has remained in nearly the same miserable condition for about 35 years. The issue of tickets for long distances is very limited, and even for short as well as long journeys, tickets are frequently taken only so far as Pontypool Road, and there renewed, on account of the extra fares incurred by taking the tickets at Usk, thereby shewing a very inaccurate statement of the receipts at Usk Station, as well as causing extra annoyance to the passengers. Public bodies have repeatedly memorialized the Company without getting redress for their grievances; although, if justice were done them, many persons from Newport and other places would be glad to avail themselves of this quiet and picturesque neighbourhood for their residence.



Customs and Claims as the Right of the ALDERMEN and BURGESSES of the said Town.

THAT about Forty years past (then) at the great charge of the Inhabitants of the said town, The Markett house there was builded, and that the rent thereof is yearly ever since employed towards the reparation of the Great Bridge of the said Town upon the River of Uske, and Other Bridges upon the River of Olwe, which was allways allowed and admitted by the Right Honourable Henry and William Earls of Pembroke.

Item.—They present that the Lord hath Two Water Grist Mills within the said Town upon a Branch of the Olwe, now holden by Reynold Williams tenant thereof, and are now lett and sett att Thirty-six pounds yearly or thereabouts, the reparations allways deducted out of the rent.

Item.—They present the Mears and Bounds of the Burrough of the Town of Uske, to be as hereafter followeth : —

Imprimis. Beginning at the farthest middle stone peer of the Bridge to bed of the River of Uske and so downward to the uttermost syde of the Mill Pound entering into the River of Uske mearing to the hedgerow of Walter Reynolds' close adjoining to the land by the Lower Mill as far as the end of that lane to the stile of Mr. Edward Rumsey's close and all that land to the mill pond thereto adjoining and thence along the middle of the channell of the mill pond to the uttermost end of the Burgage of Sir Charles Williams, Knt. in the tenure of Walter Jones Taylor and his under tenants, Then along the uttermost bounds of the Burgages to the half channel of the River of Olwe to half of the bridge called Pont-Clivon to the ditch or watercourse running between the meadows of Thomas Powell and Richard Morgan upward to the Mill pond and so alonge half the channell of the pound upwards to a little gullett falling from the parke att the end of the close or meadow in

the tenure of Reginald Williams into the said pound and thence along the outside and ende of the Burgages mearing to the park to the Castle ditches next the Town to the end of Porth Carn Street along that street or lane upwards to half the bridge called Pont-Cayo. Then to half thereof.

Item—They present that all wayfes strayes ffealons goods estheate and all royalties found within the liberty of the said town to be the right of the Lord and to be seized upon and be answerable by the Portreeve of the said town from time to time as they shall be appraised to the Lord's advantage.

Item—They present that of old and ancient custom time out of mind the Burgesses of the said town have had pawnsage for their swine within the Lord's woods viz. Wysewood, Gwehellogge and Glascoyd by the payment of one penny for every swine to the woodward there.

ITEM—They present that of like Custome it hath been free to the Burgesses of the Town to take the Underwoods and Windfalls of the said woods for their ffeuel by the payment of 1d. in a quarter of a year to the woodward there if they do fetch woods there viz. birch, alder, withys, and hazell.

ITEM—They present that there is no herriott or reliefe to be paid for any by the Burgesses of the said town and that all the tenants and inhabitants of the said town are and ought by right to be acquitted and discharged of all fines amerciaments issues and all other penaltyes and forfeitures.

*Copy of an old Assessment or Rental of the Borough
due to the Earl of Pembroke, Lord of the borough.
Made about the year 1634.*

BRIDGE STREET.

Henry, Earl of Worcester holds two Burgages heretofore Thomas David Morgan, late in the tenure of Watkin and now in the tenure of John Morris, pays yearly 00 0 9

William Morgan, Charles Johnes, Charles Williams, Knights, and other Justices of the Peace of our Lord the King, in the County of Monmouth, held to the use of the Inhabitants of the said County, three Burgages and parcell of a Burgage, heretofore of John Thomas, and late of Walter Rumsey and now in the tenure of John Prosser for a house of Correction, and pay yearly on the Feast of the Annunciation of the B. Virgin Mary, and of St. Michael the Archangel, by equal portions	00	iii	v
Reginald Williams, Gentleman, holds one Close, called Cunnigor, late of John Andrew, and now in the tenure of the aforesaid Reginald Williams, pays yearly	00	0	0
William Howell John holds in right of his wife, one Burgage heretofore of Walter Williams, late William Reynolds, Junr., now in the tenure of the said William Howell, and pays yearly.....	0	0	ii
Lewis David, of Magcr holds one Burgage and a half, heretofore Walter Morris Hughes, late Reynold Hughes now in the tenure of James Hughes, and pays yearly.....	00	0	viii
The said Lewis holds the fourth part of one Burgage, heretofore Walter Morris Hughes, and now a barn in the tenure of John Ralph, and pays yearly.....	00	0	iii
William Hughes holds one Burgage, late a Prison, now in the tenure of the said William Hughes, and pays yearly	00	0	ii
Edward Bowen holds one Burgage, late Richard Williams, and now in the tenure and occupation of the said Edward, and pays yearly	00	0	ii
Powell Giles, Gentleman, holds the half of one Burgage, heretofore the wife of Howell John Vaughan, late David Giles, and now in the tenure of Edward Reynolds, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vi
William Adams, Gent., holds the Moyete of one Burgage, heretofore Howell Edward, and now in the tenure and occupation of the said William Adams, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vi
The same William Adams holds one Burgage, late the said Howell Edward, and now in the tenure of the said William Adams.....	00	0	ii
The same William Adams holds one Burgage, heretofore Roger William ab Jevan Powell, late Edward Thomas, and now in the tenure of Thomas Jayner and Howell Wayte, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
The same William holds one Burgage, late Edward Bannor, and now in the tenure of the said William Adams, and late in the tenure of James John Howell, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ii
William James holds the half of a Burgage, late the Heires of Phillip Tanner, late William James Morris, and now in the tenure of the said William James, and pays yearly	00	0	vi

William Adams, Gent., holds one Burgage, late Maurice William, and now in the tenure of Watkin Gunter, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ii
The same William Adams holds the half of one Burgage, and the 4th part of a Burgage, late Jenkin David Meredith, and now in the tenure of Christopher Powell, and pays yearly	00	0	i
Thomas Powell, Gent., and William James, holds half a Burgage, heretofore John Saunders, late Thomas Saunders, and now in the tenure of William James, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vi
William Adams, Gent., holds one Burgage, late Charles William, and now in the tenure of William Taylor Smith, and pays yearly	00	0	ii
Walter Powell holds the 4th parte of one Burgage, heretofore Henry John Reynolds, late William Powell of Lancayo, and now in the tenure of William George, and pays yearly	00	0	iii
The same W. Powell holds the fourth part of one Burgage, heretofore Howell Edwards, late William Powell, and now in the tenure of William Probert, Keeper of our Lord the King's Goal, and pays yearly	00	0	iii
The same Walter holds one Burgage, heretofore Howell Edwards, late William Powell, and now in the tenure of the said William Probert, Keeper of His Majestye's Goal, yearly	00	0	ii
George Johnes holds the fourth part of one Burgage, late John George, and now in the tenure of the said George, and pays yearly.....	00	0	iii
Powell Giles holds two Burgages, heretofore William Gwynne, and now in the tenure of William Thomas Taylor, and pays yearly	00	0	ii
John Rumsey, Gent., holds one Messuage, and the third part of one Burgage, late Reginald Williams, and now in the tenure of Richard Pryddie, John Prichard Smith, and Margaret John, Widdow, and pays yearly.....	00	0	iv
Elizabeth Watkins and Elinor Watkins hold one Burgage, heretofore Reginald Williams, late in the tenure of John Watkin, and now in the tenure of Thomas William, Butcher, and pays yearly	00	0	ii
John Rumsey holds one Burgage, and a parcell of one Burgage, late Andrew Fflemming, and now in the tenure of Richard Pryddie, and pays yearly.....	00	0	viii
George Harries holds one Burgage, and a Moyety of a Burgage, heretofore John Reignolds, late George Morgan, and now in the tenure of John Harry George, and pays yearly.....	00	0	iii

PORTH CARNE STREET.

Reginald Williams holds three Burgages, heretofore John Thomas, of London, late John Andros, and now in the tenure of Alice Reignald, Widdow, and pays yearly	00	iii	j
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The same Reginald holds one Burgage, heretofore of the said John Thomas, late the said John Andros, and now in his own tenure, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
John Rumsey holds one Burgage, heretofore Reginald Williams, and now in the tenure of Richard Pryddie, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
George Morgan, Gent., and Thomas Morgan holds one Burgage, heretofore Jenkin y Gove, and now in the tenure of David Morgan and William Price, and pay yearly	00	0	ij
Reginald Williams holds one Burgage, heretofore John George, and now in the tenure of the said Reginald, and pay yearly	00	0	0
Reginald Williams holds three Burgages, and a parcell of one Burgage, heretofore William Powell, late William Reynolds, and now in the tenure of the said Reginald, and pays per annum.....	00	0	ij
Reginald Williams holds one Burgage, heretofore Jenkin Merricke, late Walter Rumsey, and now in the tenure of Morgan John and Phillip Howell, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Mary Williams holds one Burgage, heretofore William John, Goeh, late Edward Thomas, and now in the tenure of Maud Maurice, and paid per annum	00	0	ij
George Morgan holds one Burgage, heretofore Thomas William John Saor, and now in the tenure of the said George, and pays annually	00	0	ij
Reginald Williams holds three Burgages, and a parcell of a Burgage, late David ap Roberts, and now in the tenure of David John Tyler and John Williams, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
William Howell John in the right of his wife, holds two Burgages, and a parcell of a Burgage, heretofore Walter Williams, late William Reignolds, jun , and now in his tenure, called Le Crofte, and pays yearly	00	0	iiij
The same William Howell John, holds likewise one Burgage, and pays yearly	00	0	0
Phillip, Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, holds one parcell of a Meadow, heretofore William Powell, and now in the tenure of William Adams, Gent , and pays yearly.....	00	0	0

ASHE STREET.

John Rumsey holds one Burgage, and a parcell of a Burgage, late Alexander Evans, and now in the tenure of Joan Jenkins, William Edward Weaver, and pays yearly	00	0	vj
John Rumsey and William David Nicholas holds one Burgage, heretofore William Morris, late David Nicholas and Walter Rumsey, now in the tenure of ———, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
The same William David Nicholas holds one Bargage, late parcell of Uske Priorye, and pays yearly	00	0	0
Robert Sheppheard Smith, and Thomas Pembroke, holds one Burgage, heretofore John Thomas Howell			

y Gove, and late the heires of Reginald Smith, and Thomas John Pembroke, and now in the tenure of the aforesaid Robert and William, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Thomas, Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, Lord of the Burgh, is seized in fee of and in one Burg. called le Court house garden, now in the tenure of John Rumsey and his assignes	00	0	0
Elinor Rumsey, widdow, and Thomas Giles holds two Burgages, heretofore Alfonso Williams, now in the tenure of Robert Smith and William Thomas, and pay yearly	00	0	ij
Richard Morgan, Gent., holds two Burgages, and the half of one Burgage, late William Jenkin, and now in the tenure of the said Richard, and pays per annum	00	0	vj
Alice Reynolds, widdow, holds one Burgage, heretofore the heires of Walter Thomas, late Thomas Reynold Williams, and now in the tenure of Andrew Edwards, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
Alice Reynolds Williams, widdow, holds the half of one Burgage, heretofore Henry Llewies, late Thomas Reignald Williams, and now in the tenure of the said Andrew Edwards, and pays yearly	00	0	vj
Charles Williams, Knt., holds a parcell of a Burgage belonging to the Chantry of Uske, late in the Tenure of Thomas Reynolds Williams, and now in the Tenure of Alice Reynolds, and pays per annum.....	00	0	0
John Rumsey, Farmer, holds the half of a Burgage and parcell of a Burgage heretofore Richard Pembroke and late Joshua Giles Senior, and Thomas Reynolds Williams, and now in the Tenure of David Rosser and Andrew Edwards, and pays per annum	00	0	0
Alice Reynolds, holds one parcell of Ground, late John Watkins, and afterwards Thomas Reynolds, and pays yearly.....	00	0	iv
Walter Reynolds, holds a parcell of a Burgage, heretofore, James Williams, late Howell James, and now in the Tenure of Anne Williams, and pays yearly	00	0	vj
Richard Morgan, Gent., holds half a Burgage, late Morgan William, and now in the Tenure of the said Richard, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vj
The said Richard, holds one Burgage, late the said Morgan, and now in the Tenure of the said Richard and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
The same Richard, holds one Garden, late the said Morgan, and now in the Tenure of the said Richard and pays per annum.....	00	0	ij
The same Richard, holds half a Burgage, heretofore David Morris, near the Church Yard, now in the Tenure of the said Richard, and pay yearly	00	0	vj
Charles Williams, Knt., holds one Burgage, heretofore looking towards Uske Priory, and heretofore in the Tenure of Godfrey Rosser, and William Vaughan, and now in the Tenure of Alice Reynolds, widow, and Andrew Edwards, and pay per annum.....	00	0	0

CASTLE STREET

Walter Rumsey, Esq., holds a Burgage, called Castle orchards, now in the Tenure of John Jenkins, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vj
Edward Rumsey, of Crickhowell, Gent., holds two Burgages, heretofore John Rumsey, late William Rumsey, now in the Tenure of Thomas ap John, Butcher, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Edward Rumsey, of Crickhowell, Gent., holds one Burgage, heretofore Alexander Glover, late William Rumsey, and now in the Tenure of the said Thomas ap John, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Henry James, holds one Burgage, heretofore the heires of Walter John Phillip Ychan, late John Brown, and now in the Tenure of the said Henry James, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
William Walter Smith, holds one Burgage, heretofore Howell Thomas y Gove now in his own possion., and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Charles Williams, Knt., holds five Burgages, heretofore Lewis John Morris, late William Morris, and now in the Tenure of George Burford, and pays yearly....	00	0	v
Charles Williams, Knt., holds a parcell of a Burgage, heretofore the said Lewis John Morris, late the said William Morris, and now in the Tenure of the said George Burford, and pay yearly.....	00	0	vj
Robert Shepherd, holds Two Burgages, heretofore Morgan William Morris, late Henry John Thomas, and now in the Tenure of the said Robert, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Edward Rumsey, of Crickhowell, holds half a Burgage heretofore William Lewis Evaitha, late William Rumsey, and now in the Tenure of Thomas ap John, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vj
Richard Morgan, Gent., holds one Burgage heretofore John Casye near the Church Yard, and now in the Tenure of David Walter Rosser, and John Lewis, and pays by the year.....	00	0	ij
The same Richard, holds one Burgage, late Henry Thomas, and now in the Tenure of William Harry, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
William Jones, Gent., holds Two Burgages, heretofore Elizabeth Jones, and now in the Tenure of Phillip Jones, Butcher, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
Reginald Williams, holds half a Burgage, heretofore, Thomas Jayne Powell, late William Reynolds, and now in the Tenure of Henry John Miller, and pays yearly	00	0	vj
The same Reginald, holds half a Burgage, heretofore the heires of William Richards, late William Reynolds, Senior, now in the Tenure of Thomas Morgan, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vj
OLWIE STREET OVER PONT CLIEVON.			
Richard Morgan, Gent, holds one Burgage heretofore Walter Thomas, and now in his Own Tenure, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij

The same Richard, holds one Burgage, late Phillip Edward Prichard, and now in his Own Tenure and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Richard Morgan, Gent, holds three Burgages, late the heire of Howell John Tucker, and now in his Own Tenure, and pays yearly.....	00	0	iiij
Richard Water, holds one Burgage late John Edward afterwards Walter David and now in the Tenure of John David Rosser, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
The procurators of Pont Clievon, holds a parcell of a Burgage, now in the Tenure of the said Richard Water in his orchard adjoining to the Town shore and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
Richard Morgan, Gent, and Thomas Morris, Clerk, holds five Burgages, late George Morgan, afterwards the heires of Thomas Williams. now in the Tenure of the said Richard, and William Thomas and pay yearly..	00	0	v
The same Thomas Morris, holds one parcell of Land by Olwie Bridge, late George Morgan and now in the Tenure of William Thomas, and pays yearly	00	0	j
Richard Water holds one Burgage heretofore John ap Robert, late Walter David, now in his own Tenure and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Richard Water, holds one Burgage, heretofore Jenkin David Meredith, late Walter David, now in his own Tenure, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
William Howell John, holds Two Burgages, heretofore Howell Edward, late William Powell, of Lancaye, and now in the Tenure of Andrew Edwards, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Charles Williams, Knt., holds one Burgage, late Roger Williams, Esq., afterwards in the Tenure of John Morris John Saer, and now in the Tenure of Gabriell George, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0

OLWIE STREET WITH CROES LLOYD.

Thomas Morris, Clerk, holds one parcell of Land by Pont Olwie, late Henry Lewis, now in the Tenure of William Thomas, and pays yearly.....	00	0	j
William Jenkins, holds one Burgage, late heires of Jenkin John Griffiths, now in the Tenure of Henry David, Baskett Maker, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Edward Lord Herbert and Baron of Cherbury, and Castle Islands, holds in the right of Dame Mary, his wife, one Burgage, late William Herbert, and now in the Tenure of Joan Rees, wid., and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Thomas Giles, holds two Burgages, late John Watkin, late John Giles, Senior., and now in the Tenure of Gwenllian Flemin, and others and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Richard Morgan, Gent., holds one Burgage, heretofore William Morris, late Thomes Morgan, and now in the Tenure of the said Richard Morgan, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Richard Morgan, Gent., holds Two Burgages, late Thomas Morgan, and now in his own Tenure, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij

The same Richard holds one Burgage, late the said Thomas Morgan, and now in his Own Tenure.....	00	0	ij
William Powell, Gent., holds Six Burgages, late John Morris John Sayer, and now in the Tenure of Margaret Williams, Wid., and pays yearly	00	0	vi
Richard Morgan, Gent., holds one Burgage, heretofore John Williams David, afterwards Morgan William, and now in his own Tenure, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Richard Morgan, Gent., holds one Burgage and a half, late the heires of Howell John Tucker, and now in his own Tenure, and Anne Thomas, Wid., and pays yearly	00	0	viii
The same Richard holds two Burgages, late William Powell, and now in the Tenure of the said Richard Morgan, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
William Powell, Gent., holds two Burgages, late William Hugh, and now in the Tenure of Margaret Williams, Wid., and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Charles Williams, Knt., holds one parcell of land by *****heretofore Howell Edwards, and now in the Tenure of Reginald Williams, Gent., and pays yearly	00	0	0

PUCKLANE.

Charles Williams, Gent., holds divers Burgages heretofore Lewis John Morris, and afterwards in the Tenure of Henry Watkins, and now in the Tenure of Thomas Powell, Gent., and pays yearly.....	00	6	0
Charles Williams, Knt., holds one parcell of Land, heretofore James John John Watkins, late William Harries, and now in the Tenure of Thomas Powell, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
William Philip David and Phillip Edwards hold divers parcells of Land, late Edward Merricks, afterwards Thomas Edwards, and now in the Tenure of William Phillip, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
Phillip, Earl of Pembroke, and Montgomery, is seized in his Demesne al of Ffee of one parcell of Land late Phillip Barnard, now in the Tenure of Christopher Jones, Esq. and his 'Tents., by grant.....	00	0	0
William and Phillip Edward, hold two Burgages, late Thomas Edwards, heretofore Agnes Morton, and now in the Tenure of the said William, and pays yearly.....	00	•	ij
John Brinsdon, in the right of his wife, holds two Burgages, late Howell Edwards, called Kay-y-ydd afterwards William Rosser, and now in the Tenure of Powell Giles	00	0	ij
The same John holds one close of Land, containing divers Burgages in Pucklane, late the heires of William David, called*****afterwards William Rosser and now in the Tenure of the said Powell Giles, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
Charles Williams, Knt., holds one parcell of Land free, late Roger Williams, Esq., now in his own Tenure and his assignes, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0

Charles Williams, Knt., holds one Burgage, heretofore the late Roger Williams, Esq., heretofore Thomas Gibbon, and now in his own Tenure, and pays yearly	00	0	0
Charles Williams, Knt., holds one Burgage, heretofore of the Church of Usk, and heretofore in the Tenure of the said Roger Wms., Esq., and now in the Tenure of the said Charles, and pays to the Lord yearly....	00	0	0
Powell Giles holds half a Burgage, heretofore Thomas David, afterwards David Giles, and now in his own possession, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Charles Williams, Knt., holds half a Burgage, heretofore the said Roger Williams, Esq., heretofore Thomas David, and now in the Tenure of the said Charles, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Charles Williams, Knt., holds one Burgage, late the said Roger Williams, Esq., heretofore Edward Jeyne now in his own Tenure, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
William Jones, Gent., holds Two Burgages, late Phillip Edwards, now in his own Tenure, and pays yearly..	00	0	ij
Edward Rumsey, of Crickehowell, Gent., holds one Burgage, heretofore Reginald Hughes, late William Rumsey, and now in the Tenure of Thomas John Butcher, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
William Jones, Gent., holds one Burgage, late William John Saer, and now in his own Tenure, and pays yearly	00	0	0
Matthew Powell, Gent., holds two Burgages, heretofore the said William John Saer, afterwards William Powell, and now in the Tenure of Elizabeth his Wid., and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
William Price, Clerk, holds one Burgage and a barn, late the heires of William David, now in his own Tenure and assignes, and pay yearly	00	0	ij
The same William Price holds one Burgage, and parcell of a Burgage, heretofore the heires of the said William David, William Rosser, now in the Tenure of More Fortune, Clk., and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij

SAINT MARY STREET.

William Jenkins holds one Burgage, late the Bp. of Landaff, now in the Tenure of the said William, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Powell Giles holds half a Burgage, heretofore Thomas David, late David Giles, and now in the Tenure of the said Powell, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vj
Phillip, Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, Lord of the Mannor aforesaid, is seized in his Demesne as of Ffee of and in two Burgages, heretofore Elizabeth Jones, Wid., and now in the Tenure of Christopher Jones, Esq., by grant, etc.....	00	0	ij
The same Earl is seized in his demesne as of Ffee, of and in another Burgage, there and there pays yearly	00	0	0
William Trecharne, in right of his wife, holds one Burgage, heretofore Thomas Williams, John Saer, late William Powell, and now in the Tenure of William Edward Weaver, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij

Charles Williams, Knt., holds the half of one Burgage heretofore Henry John Tucker, late in the Tenure of William Thomas Suite, and now in the Tenure of John Reynolds, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vj
Thomas John Harris, holds the half of one Burgage, heretofore the heires of Howell John Tucker, late Henry John Powell, and now in the Tenure of Evan William Smith, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vj
Charles Williams, Knt., George Jones de Mells in Cem Somerset, Gent., holds one Burgage, heretofore William Fflemming, and now in the Tenure of Andrew Fflemming, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
George Jones holds one Burgage, heretofore William John Fflemming, late the heires of John Powell, and now in the Tenure of Elizabeth Thomas, Widdow, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
The same George, holds one Burgage, and a half heretofore the wife of Howell Thomas ap Yoraterg, afterwards the heir of John Powell, and now in the Tenure and pays yearly	00		vij
Andrew Nicholas holds half a Burgage and a Barne, late the heires of William Hoskins, and now in the Tenure of William Probert, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vj
The same Andrew Nicholas holds a prell. of a Burgage looking to Usk Priory, heretofore John Thomas Griffiths, and now in the Tenure of Thomas Watkin John, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
The same Andrew holds two Burgages late Nicholas William Griffiths, and now in the Tenure of John Thomas Watkins, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vj
Margarett Powell, Wid., holds one Burgage, heretofore Jeonette Williams, Wid., late Roger Powell, and now in the Tenure of Thomas Jones, and pays yearly	00	0	vj
Charles Williams, Knt., holds one Burgage belonging to the Priory of Usk, heretofore Jeonette Williams, and now in the Tenure of Margaret Lewis, Powell Wid., and William Christopher, and pays yearly..	00	0	0
Andrew Nicholas holds one Burgage, heretofore Nicholas William Griffiths, late William Nicholas, and now in the Tenure of William John David, and pays yearly	00	0	vj
The same Andrew holds one Burgage, now the Kill and garden, heretofore Nicholas Williams Griffiths lately William Nicholas, and now in the Tenure of William Probert, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vj
Christopher Johnes, Esq., holds Two Burgages now in the Tenure of Thomas Watkins, heretofore Howell William James, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
Andrew Nicholas holds one Burgage heretofore Nicholas William Griffiths, late William Griffiths and now	00	0	0
Andrew Nicholas holds one Burgage, heretofore the said Nicholas, late the said William Nicholas, and now in the Tenure of Robert Watkins, and pays yearly	00	0	ij

William Treharn and James John George hold two Burgages, heretofore Phe. Edwards late Jenkins Phe. and now in the Tenure of the said James and Edward Bowen, and pays.....	00	0	ij
Charles Williams, Knt., holds one Burgage looking towards Uske Priory, and now in the Tenure of Richard Lyndsey, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
Charles Williams, Knt., holds one Burgage looking to the Priory of Uske, heretofore in the Tenure of John Morris John Saer, and now in the Tenure of Walter Johnes, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
Charles Williams, Knt., and Christopher Jones, Esq., holds one Burgage, called Garth-y-Seyton, looking towards Uske Priory, heretofore in the Tenure of Howell John Tucker, and now in the Tenure of William Powell, Jun., and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
Charles Williams, Knt., holds one Burgage looking towards Uske Priory, late Nicholas William Griffiths, and now in the Tenure of William Pryse, and pays yearly	00	0	0
Moore Fortune, Clerk, holds one Burgage looking towards the Church of Uske, called Churchgarden, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vj
William Treharn holds half a Burgage, heretofore William John Fflemming, late John Giles, Jun., now in the Tenure of Evan John, and pays yearly..	00	0	vj
Feoffees of Lands of Roger Edwards holds one Mess, heretofore Jenkin John Tucker, late William Harris Llangwm, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
The same Feoffees hold one Burgage and a parcell of a Burgage heretofore the said Jenkin John Tucker, and late the said William Harries to the use of the School Master of the Ffree Schools of Uske, lately founded, and pay yearly.....	00	0	0

SHIPPINGE STREETE.

William Powell, Gent., holds a parcell of a Burgage, now a barn there, heretofore Thomas David Morgan, and now in the Tenure of William Powell, and pays yearly	00	0	ijj
John Rumsey holds half a Burgage, late Edward John David ap Yoarath, and Jane Verch Howell, and now in his Tenure and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
William Powell, Gent., holds a pcell. of a Burgage. late Jane Verch Howell, late in the Tenure of the said John Rumsey, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ijj
The same William holds one Messuage or Tenement late Thomas David Morgan, and now in the Tenure of the said William Powell, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ijj
The same William Powell holds half a Burgage and parcell of a Burgage, late William David Herver and Hugh ap Rosser, and now in the Tenure of the said William Rosser, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
The same William holds Two Burgages late Jane Verch Howell, and now in the Tenure of the said William, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij

OLD MARKET STREETE.

William Powell, Gent., holds one Burgage and half a Burgage, heretofore Thomas David Morgan, late William Powell, and now in the Tenure of Mary Powell, Wid., and pays yearly.....	00	0	vij
Charles Williams, Knt., holds two Burgages, heretofore late Roger Williams, Esq., and now in the Tenure of Richard Davies, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Charles Williams, Bart., holds one Burgage, heretofore Roger Williams, Esq., and now in the Tenure of the said Richard Davies, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0
Elizabeth Morgan holds one Burgage, heretofore Walter John Thomas, and now in the Tenure of Benjamin Harrison and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Matthew Powell, Gent., holds one Burgage, heretofore Gwenlliane William, late William Powell, and now in the Tenure of William Thomas, and pays yearly....	00	0	ij
Charles Williams, Knt., and Benjamin Harrison hold two Burgages, heretofore John Nicholas, late Walter Morgan and Reginald Hughes, and now in the Tenure of the said Benjamin and Roger Leonard, and pay yearly	00	0	ij
William Phe. David and Phillip Edwards, hold one Burgage, heretofore the heires of Edward John Meirick, late Thomas Edward Meirick, and now in the Tenure of Richard David, and pay yearly	00	0	ij
Henry Rumsey, Gent., holds two Burgages, late David Morgan, and now in the Tenure of the said Henry, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
William Treharne holds half a Burgage, late William Watkin and now in his Tenure, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vj
William Treharne holds half a Burgage, late Giles Morris, afterwards John Giles, and now in his Own Tenure....	00	0	vj
Henry Rumsey, Gent., holds one Burgage, late David Morris, and now in the Tenure of the said Henry, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Edward Rumsey, Gent., holds one Burgage, late William John-e, and now in the Tenure of the said Edward, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Edward Rumsey, Gent., holds one Burgage, late William John ap Jeyne, and now in his own Tenure, and pays yearly	00	0	0
Charles Williams, Knt., and Jane Rosser, Wid., hold one Burgage, heretofore Maurice Edwards, afterwards Edward Morris, and now in the Tenure of George Davies and the said Jane, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Edward Rumsey, Gent., holds half a Burgage, late Roger William Griffith, and now in the Tenure of William Rosser, Mercer, and pays yearly.....	00	0	vj
Thomas Harry holds half one Burgage late John Edward Waythe, afterwards Henry John Thomas, and now in the Tenure of the said Thomas Harrys and pays yearly	00	0	vj
Henry Probert, Esq., holds one Burgage, heretofore George ap Probert, late William Powell, Junior, and now in the Tenure of Eve Powell, Wid., and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Thomas Giles holds one Burgage, heretofore Thomas Williams, late John Giles, Senior, and now in the Tenure of Roger Mynd, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij

The Portreeve and Burgesses of Uske hold the Lordship of the Markett, now in the Tenure of Richard Morgan and his assignes, and pays yearly..... 00 0 ij

BARON STREETE.

Thomas Giles, Gent., holds three Burgages, heretofore Reginald William Jeyne, late the heires of John Powell, and now in the Tenure of Charles Tanner, and pays yearly 00 0 iij

Thomas Powell, Gent., holds one Burgage, heretofore the said Reginald William Jeyne. and now in the Tenure of Thomas John Morris and Andrew Morgan, and pay yearly 00 0 ij

Thomas Lewis Evan holds one Burgage, heretofore Giles Morris, and now in the Tenure of John Rumsey, and pays yearly..... 00 0 ij

Thomas Powell holds two Burgages, heretofore Maurice Edwards, late the heires of Henry John Powell, now in the said Thomas Powell, and pays yearly..... 00 0 ij

The same Thomas holds one Burgage, heretofore Roger William Griffith, late the heires of the said John Powell, and now in the Tenure of the said Thomas Powell, and pays yearly..... 00 0 ij

John Brinsden and his wife hold six Burgages, heretofore William Gebon, late William Rosser, and now in the Tenure of the said Thomas Powell, and pay yearly.... 00 0 vij

The same John holds three Burgages, heretofore the heires of William David. late William Rosser, and now in the Tenure of the said Thomas Powell, and pays yearly.... 00 0 iij

The same John holds the one Burgage, heretofore Gwenllian William, late William Rosser, and now in the Tenure of the said Thomas Powell and pays yearly.... 00 0 ij

Thomas Powell, Gent., holds five Burgages, late Walter John Thomas, and now in the Tenure of the said Thomas, and pays yearly..... 00 0 v

The same Thomas holds one Burgage and a parcell of a Burgage, late the heires of John Watkins, and now in the Tenure of the said Thomas, and pays yearly..... 00 0 ij

William Treharne and his wife, hold one Burgage, late the heires of Hugh Bedo, and now in the Tenure of the said William Treharne, and pays yearly..... 00 0 ij

NEWMARKETT STREETE.

Thomas Powell, Gent., holds two Burgages heretofore John Watkin, late William Harries, and now in the Tenure of the said Thomas Powell, and pays yearly.... 00 0 ij

William Treharne holds half a Burgage late Gwenlliane William, and now in the Tenure of James Meredith, and pays yearly 00 0 0

Charles Williams, Knt., holds 3 parts of one Burgage, late the heires of John Watkin, after William Harries, and now in the Tenure of the said Charles Williams, and pays yearly 00 0 ij

Charles Williams, Knt., Thomas Powell, Gent., Thomas Giles, William Treharn, Clerk, and George Davies hold one Burgage and 3 parts of a Burgage to Giles Morris, Anne Coke, Maurice Edward, and the heires of Hugh Bedo, and pay yearly 00 0

Charles Williams, Knt., holds three Burgages and 1 parcell of a Burgage, heretofore Roger Williams, Esq., now in the Tenure of the said Charles Williams, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
The same Charles Williams holds the half of one Burgage heretofore Roger Mason, and now in the Tenure of Morgan Feltmaker, and pays annually	00	0	vj
Edward Rumsey, of Crickhowell, Gent., holds the half of one Burgage, heretofore John Rumsey, late William Rumsey, and now in the Tenure of John Rees, and Nicholas Harvey, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Edward Rumsey, of Uske, holds one Burgage, late Thomas Williams and now in the Tenure of John Peppin, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Edward Rumsey, of Crickhowell, holds a parcell of a Burgage, heretofore John Rumsey, and late William Rumsey, and now in the Tenure of himself, and pays yearly	00	0	iiij

WALKER STREETE.

Walter Reynolds holds two Burgages, heretofore Reginald David, late Thomas Reynolds, and now in the Tenure of the said Walter Reynolds, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Walter Reynolds holds one Burgage, late Thomas Reynolds, and now in the Tenure of the said Walter and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Edward Rumsey holds half a Burgage, heretofore William ab John Jeyne, now in the Tenure of the said Edward, and pays yearly	00	0	vj
William Treharne holds one Burgage, heretofore William Williams, late John Giles, Jun., and now in the Tenure of the said William Treharne, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Thomas Powell holds one Burgage, late Phillip Morgan Edward, and now in the Tenure of the said Thomas, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
William Phe. David and Phillip Edward holds one Burgage, heretofore the heires of Edward John Meirick, late Thomas Edward, and now in the Tenure of the said William Evan John, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Thomas Powell holds one Burgage, late John William Fleminge, and now in the Tenure of the said Thomas, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
The same Thomas Powell holds one Burgage, now in the Tenure of the said Thomas, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Thomas Giles holds two Burgages, late the heires of John Meirick, Minor, and now in the Tenure of John Morgan, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
John Brinsden and his wife hold two Burgages, heretofore Walter William, Clerk, late William Rogers, and now in the Tenure of Thomas Powell, and pay yearly	00	0	0
Richard Jones holds a third pte. of a Burgage, late the heires of John Meirick, Minor, and now in the Tenure of the said Richard, and pays yearly	00	0	vij
The same Richard holds by Grant of the Auditt. as place cal'd Le Dymtern, now in the Tenure of the said Richard, and pays yearly	00	0	i

Thomas Powell, Gent., and Phill p Edwards in the right of his wife, hold two Burgages, heretofore the heires of Edward John Meirick, and now in the Tenure of Evan John Miller and Christian William Spinster, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Edward Rumsey holds three Burgages, late David Jones and now in the Tenure of Henry Rumsey and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Walter Reynolds holds one Burgage, heretofore Reginald David, and now in the Tenure of the said Walter, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
Thomas Powell holds one Burgage, heretofore Edward John David, late Watkin Edward, and now in the Tenure of the said Watkin, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Charles Williams, Knt., holds four Burgages, now one Orchard, heretofore Roger Williams, Esq., heretofore Morgan James, and now in the Tenure of the said Charles Williams, and pays yearly	00	0	iiij
William Powell holds one Burgage, late William Williams and now in the Tenure of Thomas Harrys, and pays yearly	00	0	ij
The same William Powell holds one Burgage, late James Howells, and now in the Tenure of him and his assigns, and pays yearly.....	00	0	ij
Charles Williams, Knt., holds two Burgages, called, heretofore Elizabeth Jones, Wid., Chappel Hey, and pays yearly.....	00	0	0



Ancient List of the Burgesses of Usk.

At page 91 and following pages a list is given of the Burgesses of Usk from the years 1752 to 1885, but it would appear from the following list that prior to those dates the Burgesses of the Borough enjoyed the privilege as far as Cardiff on the west, and Trelock on the east.

William Nicholls, of Penalt
John Davies, of Penalt
James Brace, of Penalt
James Davis, of Penalt
Moses Bovens, of Penalt
James Williams, of Penalt
Philip Austin, of Penalt
Hezekiah Hopkins, of Cardiff
William Roberts, of Cardiff
John Evans, of Penalt
William Edwards, of Penalt
James Roberts, of Penalt
Edward Thomas, of Penalt
Thomas Rowland, of Penalt
Thomas Dixon, of Penalt
John Davies, of Penalt
Rees Vaughan, Leckwith, Gla.
Thomas Turner, of Cardiff
George Williams, of Penalt
Aaron David, of Penalt
William Pritchard of Penalt
John Richards, of Penalt
John Parry, of Penalt
John Jones, of Penalt
William Morgan, of Cardiff
James Owen, of Cardiff
Edward Morgan, of Cardiff
Richard Powell, of Cardiff
Evan Williams, of Leckwith
John Lewis, of Leckwith
Morgan Dowall, of Leckwith
John Pritchard, of Leckwith
Edward Lambert, of Cardiff
John Whiting, of Cardiff
Henry Yeomans, of Cardiff
Arthur Tanner, of Cardiff
Arthur Williams, of Cardiff
Thomas Stephens, of Cardiff
Moses Morgan, of Cardiff
Ralph Bowen, of Cardiff
William Lewis, Gwernesney
Benjamin Ambrose, of Usk
Phillip Major, of Usk
William Williams, of Penalt
John Williams, of Panteague
Philip Cadogan, of Landenny
Wm. Williams, of Gwehelog
John Davies, of Gwehelog
Roger Williams, of Glascoed
Wm. Morgan, of Gwehelog
Henry Francis, of Llanbadoc
Wm Jones, of Llanbaddock
Thomas Rees, of Llanbadoc
And. Pritchard, Monkswood
Wm. Morgan, of Monkswood

John Gameson, Monkswood
Lewis Richards, of Gwllwg
Richard Williams, of Treleg
Henry Morgan, of Treleg
John Morris, of Treleg
John Moxley, of Treleg
Robert Vaughan, of Treleg
Herbert Jones, of Treleg
William Williams, of Treleg
Charles Hughes, of Treleg
Oliver Luff, of Treleg
John Gwin, of Treleg
Thomas Lewis, of Treleg
Christoph. Davies, of Treleg
David Hughes, of Treleg
Richard Spencer, of Treleg
William Jones, of Treleg
David Williams, of Treleg
Charles Howell, of Treleg
Morgan Pritchard, of Treleg
John Rosser, of Treleg
Thomas Gwin, of Treleg
John Davis, of Treleg
John Griffiths, of Penalt
Phillip Roberts, of Penalt
Griffith Griffiths, of Penalt
Thomas Dixon, of Penalt
William Richards, of Penalt
William Thomas, of Penalt
Thomas Lewis, of Penalt
Isaac Richards, of Penalt
John Thomas, of Penalt
William Watkins, of Penalt
Thomas Young, of Penalt
John Arthur, of Penalt
John James, of Penalt
Philip Watkins, of Penalt
Philip Young, of Penalt
George Kinstone, of Penalt
Richard Jones, of Penalt
Thomas Austen, of Penalt
William Jones, of Penalt
William Austin, of Penalt
John Morris, of Penalt
Edward Williams, of Penalt
John Jones, of Penalt
George Williams, of Penalt
Jacob Rosser, of Cardiff
Thomas Austin, of Cardiff
Francis Bowen, of Cardiff
Jas. Edwards, jun. of Penalt
John Martin, of Penalt
James Martin, of Penalt
William Lewis, of Penalt

Trelock at this period was a place of much importance, for in the Court Rolls a distinction was made between the town or borough and the parish, the latter being called the foreign. The tenants of the borough had peculiar privileges, and the lands within its bounds were all freeholds, while the greater part of the lands in the foreign are copyhold.



THE MARKETS.



The market day is Friday. Some years back a respectable and lively little market was held, at which the inhabitants were amply provided with meat, poultry, butter, eggs, etc. At that time there were butchers' shambles in the street, and the farmers' wives and daughters exposed their produce for sale in the Market Square and under the Town Hall. The space under the Town Hall has been much contracted since those days by the building of rooms and cells. The cause of the discontinuation of the market arose thus: In the year 1842, on the erection of the present County Gaol, Mr. James Williams, purchased the site of the House of Correction, in Bridge-street, and after building his house and shop, devoted a portion of the premises to a market, complaints having been frequent of the market place under the Town Hall being so draughty during inclement weather, that those attending it suffered greatly from the current of cold winds driving between the iron railings which were placed in each arch. The new market was considered an innovation on the custom of the borough. It excited jealousy on the part of owners of property in the neighbourhood of the old market, aroused a spirit of opposition, and there was great strife between the chief parties interested in the localities. Some few attended the new market, but the greater number supported the old one; rival criers were set to work to announce each market. Matters continued in this state for some years. The market place under the hall was improved by

filling up the arches on the one side with masonry work, and Mr. Evan Jones, the then Portreeve of the borough, issued a notice directing that the people should cease to hawk their produce, butter, cheese, eggs, and poultry from house to house, and thereby forestall the market, as well as as causing inconvenience to buyer and seller. The vagrant market had, however, been too long suffered, and the order was only partially carried out. Some attended the old market, some made their purchase at the new one, and some bought at their doors, until at last the two markets dwindled away, and the one in the lower street is now represented by a solitary butcher's stall.

MONTHLY MARKETS for the sale of live stock were until recently held on the first Monday in each month. Fairs are held for the sale of stock and pedlery on the 20th of April, Trinity Monday, October 29th, and December 16th. There is no enclosed market, but the cattle, sheep pens, pig pens, etc., are distributed about the main streets, doing much damage there, and obstructing the thoroughfares to the annoyance of persons having occasion to be out in the town on those days.

PROPOSITION FOR A STOCK MARKET.

The Chairman of the Local Board (Mr. J. H. Clark), at a meeting held on the 1st of April, 1885, laid before the members the proposition, of which he had previously given notice, for the building of a cattle market for the town. It would be very desirable to get rid of the nuisance of the cattle, sheep, pigs, and horses from the streets, and a saving of expense to the ratepayers in repairing the damage to the footpaths. The subject of building a stock market had on two or three occasions been brought before the public, but had failed being carried out. He thought a central position could

be obtained in the town; and he did not believe the interest of the innkeepers, who were generally opposed to the scheme, would be interfered with in any way from confining the market to a convenient site, and he would suggest that a Committee be formed to carry out that object. This was agreed to, and the following members were selected as the Committee :—The Chairman, Mr. T. Watkins, Mr. J. O. Nicholas, Mr. S. Smith, Mr. S. A. Hiley, and Mr. J. Williams; three to be a quorum.

On the 21st of April, 1886, Mr. J. H. Clark, who had been re-appointed Chairman of the Local Board, after returning thanks for his re-election, “referred to the proposed cattle market, and said the Board had considered the matter for twelve months, and had plans and specifications to lay before a meeting of the parishioners. They had no desire to act in opposition to the ratepayers, but there had been for many years numerous complaints of the cattle being about on the streets, which was not only a nuisance to most of the inhabitants, but entailed considerable expense on the ratepayers in keeping the footways in repair. They had now an opportunity of purchasing property in the very centre of the town suitable for a market. The principal opposition to the scheme would come from the owners of public-house property, but he did not apprehend that any of the publicans would sustain any loss, as there would be two entrances to the market from the principal streets, and a third may be had if desired, as well as a weekly market in the lower street.—After some discussion, the question was deferred.”

At the Local Board meeting held on the 21st of July, the Chairman again brought forward the subject of a cattle market. “He said he had received a requisition signed by upwards of twenty owners and ratepayers of the town asking him to summon a meeting of the inhabitants for the purpose of passing resolutions to enable the Local Board to provide a market place and other con-

conveniences with proper approaches necessary for the convenient use of such market, and to purchase land for, and take stallage rents in respect of the use of such market. An opportunity was now offered for erecting a market in a part of the large area in the centre of the town, about seven acres, two of which would be sufficient for the market, which may not occur again. During the last fifty years three attempts had been made for relieving the inhabitants from the nuisance of having the stock at markets and fairs distributed over the streets of the town; but on account of the opposition of the inhabitants, principally those connected with public-house property, the projects had been abandoned. The site now to be obtained, within 200 or 300 yards of all the inns of the town, could not injuriously affect the interest of any of the innkeepers, but would rather improve their position by inducing a larger number of farmers and dealers to attend the markets, and it was the opinion of many of the farmers in the district, who had signed a requisition for a market, that Usk, being so centrally situated in an agricultural district, would be the best market for stock in the county, and good fortnightly markets may be held, which would increase the business and improve the trade of the town. Several letters had been written to the newspaper by persons who seem to have very little information on the subject, endeavouring to prejudice the inhabitants against the undertaking, on account of its causing increased taxation. We shall be however, in a position to prove that instead of taxing the ratepayers, the market, if carried out, will repay all the money expended in purchasing the land and erecting the market, and in the course of a few years will give a good round sum annually in reduction of taxation, and ultimately give to the town a very valuable property. Being convinced that such would be the case, he would call, at an early day, a meeting of the inhabitants, in compliance with the requisition he had received."

In August, 1886, the Chairman issued the following notice:—

TO THE RATEPAYERS OF USK.—Considerable opposition appears to prevail among some of the inhabitants to the proposed cattle market, which I purpose, as Chairman of the Local Board, to bring before the parishioners at the Town Hall, on Monday, August 30th. Such opposition, I hear, is mainly attributable to the idea that the scheme will entail a considerable increase in the parish rates. That idea is most erroneous, and I hope to be enabled to prove to those present at the meeting that the project, if carried out, instead of producing an increased burden upon the taxpayers will tend considerably to relieve them, by reducing the rates levied upon them in years to come. Having been associated for many years with public matters for the improvement of the town, in pursuing my arguments and laying plain facts before the public, I may be pardoned for being somewhat egotistical in illustrating and shewing how past improvements in the town, brought forward under similar circumstances, have proved successful to the projectors and inhabitants generally. In the year 1850, the dark and dismal state of the town at night rendered burglaries and thefts prevalent, and the nocturnal depredators were rarely captured on account of the town being in nearly utter darkness, for the scanty, miserable oil lamps, few and far between, seemed only to make night hideous, and were no protection to property and persons. At that time, thirty-six years ago, I induced Mr. D. E. Partridge, the then Portreeve, to convene a meeting of the inhabitants, and laid before those assembled the project of lighting the town with gas. My proposals were considered the height of temerity by many present; but when I told them that I had obtained estimates for erecting the works and laying down the mains, and had also ascertained the approximate number of lights that would be taken, with other statistics, and that if a sufficient number of £5 shares were

taken, I could safely predict that the works would be a success, and that the shareholders would undoubtedly receive six per cent. for their money, most of the principal inhabitants decided upon taking a few shares, although many did so from a laudable desire to improve the town, rather than believing their investment would realize the dividend held out to them. The result was that 56 persons were induced to take 314 shares, amounting to £1,570, and were constituted a Joint Stock Company. The works were erected at £5 under the estimated cost, and the undertaking has proved most successful, for instead of receiving £6 per cent. dividend for their money invested, the original shareholders have received upwards of £10 per cent. per annum, during the thirty-six years the works have existed. Now, with regard to the proposed cattle market, I cannot go so far as to suggest a dividend on the outlay for the first few years, but from the estimates formed, I believe the market will ultimately not only be a boon but a source of revenue to the parish. For upwards of fifty years the subject has been ventilated, and two or three attempts have been made to improve the sanitary condition and relieve the town from the great nuisance arising from having the stock distributed over the principal thoroughfares, to the annoyance of visitors as well as the inhabitants, and the inconvenience of sellers and purchasers. Hitherto the principal opposition to the schemes for removing the stock from the streets has arisen from the owners and occupiers of public-houses, their ideas being that the trade of those houses might be diverted to other quarters. The site now available for the market obviates all these difficulties, for it is proposed to fix the market in about two acres of the large area in the centre of the town, and yet at a sufficient distance from any dwelling, that, with an efficient system of drainage, no possible nuisance would arise to any inhabitant, whilst an entrance would be available both from

Maryport Street and Bridge Street, and, if thought necessary, by a small further outlay than at present proposed, a third entrance could be obtained from New Market Street, so that all parts of the town would be equally interested. To show the feeling of some of the largest ratepayers in the town to obtain the market, and also the principal agriculturists and breeders of stock who attend the market, to obtain the accommodation, I append two requisitions that have been forwarded to me."

"WE, the undersigned, hereby humbly petition you, the LOCAL BOARD, to grant us, the principal supporters of Usk Market, the right of a Market Place, as we find the accommodation now provided insufficient for the requirements of a Market, and are assured that if such a Market be supplied that it will be a great benefit to the town.

(Signed)

David Lawrence, Porthycarne.
 Arthur Evans, Llangibby Castle.
 J. H. Hillier, Llandowlas Farm.
 William James, Llandenny.
 Robert James, Llandenny.
 Alfred Jenkins, Llanbadoc.
 John Parker, The Hill.
 William Williams.
 Nabor Crump, Estavarney.
 Edward Powell, Llandenny.
 James J. Denholm, Kilfigan.
 Richard H. Marfell, Trostrey Lodge.
 F. H. Wilmott, Llanthewy Court.
 John Cowell, The Ton Farm.
 Joshua Thomas, Abergavenny.
 William Morgan, Lodge Farm.
 John Morgan, Tonybetha Farm.
 William Nicholas, Tynycaila Farm.
 Wm. B. Pullen, Tredunnock Farm.
 Henry Waters, Hill Farm, Llangibby.
 W. A. Williams, The Garn Farm.
 Chas. Herbert, The Mardy Farm.
 Joseph Frost, New House Farm, Llandenny.
 William Thomas, Whitehall Farm.
 John Williams, Broadwell Farm.

George Powell, The Oak Farm.
 W. S. Poole, Auctioneer, Monmouth.
 John Anstey, Court St. Lawrence Farm.
 J. W. Green, Maindee.
 John Pritchard, Peargoed Farm.
 George Pritchard, Peargoed Farm.
 Edwin Lewis, Tregirog Farm.
 Alfred Lewis, Tyharry Farm, Penyclawdd.
 James William Bett, Dealer.
 William Marfell, Trostrey Court Farm.
 J. Edward Price.
 Alfred Gething."

"To MR. JAMES HENRY CLARK, Chairman of the Local Board for the District of Usk.

"WE, the undersigned, being Owners and Ratepayers of the above District, do hereby request you to summon a Meeting of the Owners and ratepayers for the purpose of passing resolutions enabling the Local Board to provide a Market Place and other conveniences, houses, weighing carts, with all proper approaches and things necessary for the convenient use of such Market, and to purchase land for and take stallage rents and tolls in respect of the use of such Market.

Dated, 20th day of July, 1886.

John Haggett, Butcher, Bridge Street.

James Jones, Bridge Street.

J. O. Nicholas, Maryport Street.

Mary J. Cullen, Bridge Street.

Henry C. Griffin.

William H. Slade.

James Vaughan, Bridge Street.

John Charles, Bridge Street.

William Davies, Bridge Street.

Edward Waters, Bridge-street.

Mary Jones, Bridge Street.

F. D. Edwards.

Richard Morris.

Thomas Day, Bridge Street.

Sidney Smith, Bridge Street.

S. M. A. Davies, Porthycarne Street.

Thomas Croft.

Charles F. Harding, New Market Street.

Stephen C. Baker, Vicarage, Usk.

Anna Evans, Twyn.

R. B. Roden, Ty Brith, Usk.

F. M'Donnell, Plas Newydd, Usk."

In compliance with the above requisition, I hereby convene a Meeting of the Owners and Ratepayers, at the Town Hall, Usk, on Monday, the 30th day of August, 1886, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of passing such resolutions with respect to the erection of the Market as may be considered desirable.

JAMES HENRY CLARK.

August 14th, 1886.

It is to be hoped the Meeting will be well attended, so that the opinion of the ratepayers may be fairly represented and dispassionately discussed, and that all present will advocate only what they consider advantageous to the place generally, throwing every trifling individual interest aside in a desire to improve the trade and comfort of the town.

On Monday, the 30th August, 1886, a meeting of the ratepayers, which had been convened by the Chairman of the Local Board on the requisition of twenty of the inhabitants of the town and about forty of the farmers who attend the Usk monthly markets and fairs, was held. There were about eighty ratepayers present, among whom were Col. M'Donnell, Col. Roden. David Lawrence, Esq., Rev. S. C. Baker (Vicar), J. A. Shepard, Esq. (surgeon), Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Fleming, Mrs. W. Phillips, Mr. S. A. Hiley, Mr. J. Parker, and a good number of the smaller ratepayers.

Mr. J. H. Clark, the Chairman of the Local Board, presided, and in opening the proceedings said he had convened the meeting at the request of twenty of the ratepayers of Usk and a large number of the principal agriculturists of the district, who felt great inconvenience in not having a proper market for the accommodation of their stock on market and fair days.

After receiving the requisition from the farmers, I felt it my duty, as Chairman of the Local Board, to

suggest to the members the desirability of ascertaining where the most convenient site for a market could be secured. Two previous attempts had been made during the last fifty years to get a cattle market on land on the outskirts of the town, but the object on each occasion had been frustrated by the owners and occupiers of public-houses, who were under the impression that the trade on market days would be diverted from their houses. Mr. Waddington, who had advocated the market, finding the opposition that existed, purchased a carpenter's old workshop which stood on the site of the villas occupied by Mr. Parker and Major Lane, and offered it to the town on very low terms; but this offer was rejected, and he determined to make no further effort, and built those houses. The site now suggested is a portion of that property, with the addition of the large garden ground, at the back of Mr. Gustard's offices, which Mr. Gustard has offered at a reasonable price. Several misrepresentations have been made by parties that it is intended to increase the taxes to defray the cost, but from the statement I will read to you it will be shewn there will be no increase of taxation, but a great benefit will accrue to the rate-payers as the market will be self-supporting, and in thirty years the principal and interest will be all paid, and the property, worth nearly £200 per year, will belong to the town, which will decrease the taxes to that amount. I will now read Mr. Gustard's letter in reply to the Committee's application to him to sell his land:—

" BRIDGE STREET, USK,
15th June, 1885.

THE CHAIRMAN TO THE LOCAL BOARD, USK.

DEAR SIR,

In reference to our conversation this afternoon respecting the sale of my house and premises to the Local Board for the purpose of a cattle market, I now submit the terms upon which I am willing to dispose of the property, having regard to the interests of the town.

1.—Purchase money for the whole of the premises, £1,500.

2.—A lease to be granted to me for 30 years of the house and buildings, excepting the stable and coach-house, at a yearly rent of £50.

3.—The present out-houses to be taken down and re-built, and a communication to be made therewith from Bridge Street, with a wall 3ft. in height, with a substantial iron railing upon it, built at a distance from the western end of the house of not less than 3ft. in the clear, to be continued as far as the end of such house, and from that point a wall six feet in height to be built to the out-house, so to be re-built. A means of loading and unloading coal, ashes, &c., to be given through such wall.

4.—The lease to contain the usual covenants on the part of the lessors or lessee.

5.—In constructing the walls and boundary fences of the market place, the wall at the back of Mr. Thomas's house to be continued across the garden of the same height, and the window of the back kitchen, facing the garden, to be sufficiently protected.

6.—Any interference with the drains, &c., to be made good by the Board.

7.—The fixtures now upon the premises to be my property, as at present.

8.—The purchase deed and lease to be prepared free of cost (except out-of-pocket expenses) to the Board.

Yours truly,

H. STAFFORD GUSTARD."

A field on the outskirts of the town may be purchased probably at a much less sum, which would be open to objections; besides, a wall round it would cost a considerable sum. The ground at present under consideration is surrounded by a high wall for nearly three-parts of the distance.

The following is the estimate of the probable cost of constructing a cattle market at Usk for the Usk Local Board according to the plan sent in:—

	Pulling down old buildings and walls	
	as shown on plan	.
	Removing trees and levelling ground	.
Say 400yds.	Removing surface soil	.
941 c. yds.	Hauling gravel from river on 1½ a.	.
	3 in. thick	.
382 c. yds.	Boundary walling, rubble work	.
870 ft.	Coping brick on edge	.

24 c. yds.	Random walling by entrance gates .
	DRAINAGE :
384 ft.	9 in. pipes—192 pipes
956 ft.	6 in. „ —478 „
No. 11.	9 in. junctions
„ 13.	6 in. „
„ 7.	6 in. double junctions
447 yds.	Laying pipes (7 in., 3 ft. deep) (6 in., 2 ft. 6 in. deep)
	Hauling pipes from station
No. 47.	Traps and grating
192 c. yds.	Laying extra coating of well-broken stone, 3 in. thick on 2,310 sq. yds., as shewn on plan
192 c. yds.	Laying brick on flat for sheep and pig pens
	Constructing 3 w.c.'s and coal shed for Mr. Gustard as shewn on plan and connecting drain
19.	Pig pens, 7 ft. by 7 ft. by 2 ft. 3 in. high (by wall)
29.	Sheep pens, 7 ft. by 5 ft. by 2 ft. 3 in. high (by wall)
20.	Sheep pens, 7 ft. by 5 ft. by 2 ft. 3 in.
20.	Sheep pens, 7 ft. by 10 ft. by 2 ft. 3 in.
102.	Cast iron 4 in. to 5 in. diam. pillars, 3 ft. 6 in. above ground, 2 ft. below
893 ft.	2 in. gas tubing
4.	Gates to cattle enclosures and sale ring
	Hauling iron from station
	Fixing ditto
220ft.	2 in. gas tubing fixed to wall for horse stand
	1½ in. square
23.	Stays for same fixed through wall Fixing same
2.	Wrought iron entrance gates, 12 ft. wide each
4.	Cast iron entrance pillars
	Small wrought iron gate and posts for back entrance to Mr. Gustard's office
	Carriage and fixing the same and entrance gates.
	Erecting two urinals

Painting all iron work with two coats of paint . . . . .	.	.
Extras . . . . .	.	.
Surveyor's charges . . . . .	.	.
Clerk of the Works . . . . .	.	.
Total	£1,075	0 0

The plan shows that there will be two entrances to the market—one from Bridge Street and one from Maryport Street—and that the site will afford accommodation for

990 sheep or pigs in 99 small pens.

640 sheep in 32 large pens.

500 cattle in 890 feet cattle stands.

50 cattle in 66 feet by 33 feet enclosures.

180 horses in 380 feet by 62 feet horse stands.

Allowing ample space for sale ring, roads, &c., and provision has been made for effectually draining the market.

In April, 1885, the Committee attended the monthly market and fair held during the month, to ascertain the number of animals brought for sale on each of those days, and the following is the summary:—

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.	Total.
April market	190		350		240		780
„ fair	330	45	345	112	152	93	1,077

The fair was smaller than usual, and the October fair is considered much larger, so that the four fairs during the year may be reasonably estimated to average the above number; and it is the opinion of some of the leading breeders and butchers that if fortnightly markets were held in Usk, from its central position in the agricultural districts, and its contiguity to the “hills,” it would be more numerous attended than any markets in the county.

The following is a statement shewing how the expenses of building the market and procuring land for an entrance from Maryport Street are to be defrayed in 30 years:—

30 YEARS	PRINCIPAL.			INTEREST.			TOTAL.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1st year...	22	17	3	51	5	8	74	2	11
2nd year...	23	15	7	50	7	5	74	3	0
3rd year...	24	14	6	49	8	5	74	2	11
4th year...	25	14	4	48	8	8	74	3	0
5th year...	26	14	11	47	8	0	74	2	11
6th year...	27	16	4	46	6	8	74	3	0
7th year...	28	18	6	45	4	5	74	2	11
8th year...	30	1	9	44	1	3	74	3	0
9th year...	31	5	9	42	17	2	74	2	11
10th year...	32	10	10	41	12	2	74	3	0
11th year...	33	16	9	40	6	2	74	2	11
12th year...	35	4	0	38	19	0	74	3	0
13th year...	36	12	0	37	10	11	74	2	11
14th year...	38	1	4	36	1	8	74	3	0
15th year...	39	11	9	34	11	2	74	2	11
16th year...	41	3	6	32	19	6	74	3	0
17th year...	42	16	4	31	6	7	74	2	11
18th year...	44	10	8	29	12	4	74	3	0
19th year...	46	6	3	27	16	8	74	2	11
20th year...	48	3	4	25	19	8	74	3	0
21st year...	50	1	10	24	1	1	74	2	11
22nd year...	52	2	0	22	1	0	74	3	0
23rd year...	54	3	7	19	19	4	74	2	11
24th year...	56	7	0	17	16	0	74	3	0
25th year...	58	11	11	15	11	0	74	2	11
26th year...	60	18	11	13	4	1	74	3	0
27th year...	63	7	7	10	15	4	74	2	11
28th year...	65	18	5	8	4	7	74	3	0
29th year...	68	11	1	5	11	10	74	2	11
30th year...	71	2	0	3	1	0	74	3	0
	1282	0	0	942	8	9	2224	8	9

A market on the outskirts of the town would be strongly opposed by innkeepers, on account of removing the stock so distant, and, in their opinion, diverting the trade from their houses ; but having the market on the proposed site, that objection would be obviated, as the stock would be offered within a very short distance of all the hostleries, and as purchasers have at present to ramble from one extremity of the town to the other, a central market would be of greater advantage to all concerned.

No nuisance could arise to any party from the market on the proposed site, as the Local Board would see that it was properly cleansed and all refuse removed immediately after each market. The streets would not be contaminated with the stench which frequently prevails for some days after fairs and markets. Householders would not have their doors, windows, and walls defaced with filth, and the ratepayers would be spared the expense in keeping the footpaths in order.

The foregoing calculations show how the borrowed principal and interest, for building the market and purchasing land for an entrance from Maryport Street, amounting together to £1,235, is to be repaid in 30 years, and the £1,500 for the house and premises will be paid off in 30 years on the same calculation, without inflicting on the inhabitants the heavy rates so industriously circulated by certain parties holding small tenements in the town. It will be seen by paying off less principal and more interest in the first portion of the 30 years, and *vice versa* on the remaining portion, how the payments are equally distributed over the whole period, which payments will be met by the tolls of the market without levying any tax upon the ratepayers, and at the end of the 30 years leaving the town in possession of a large freehold premises worth £50 a year, and a market bringing in about £150 per annum, which will amount to £200, so as to reduce the Local Board rate one half.

Mr. Gustard has offered to sell his house and garden, if required, to the Board for £1,500, and to take the house and offices on lease for 30 years, at £50 per annum.

COST OF THE UNDERTAKING.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Purchase of Mr. Gustard's house and premises as per offer	1,500	0	0			
Cost of land for entrance from Maryport Street	160	0	0			
Cost of erecting market as per plan ..	1,075	0	0			
Add for any contingencies	220	0	0			
Total Cost				£2955	0	0

The above outlay will be met by the following

ANNUAL PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Principal and Interest to pay off Purchase of Property in 30 years.	88	7	0						
To pay off Principal and Interest on estimate of constructing market	74	3	0						
Cost of collecting tolls per annum ..	12	0	0						
Rates and taxes	25	0	0						
Repairs	5	0	0						
							£.204	10	0

ANNUAL RECEIPTS..

Rent of Mr. Gustard's house and offices	50	0	0			
300 cattle at 4d. each ..	5	0	0			
400 sheep at ½d. each ..	0	16	8			
200 pigs at 1d. ..	0	16	8			
Horses	0	10	0			
12 markets at . 7 3 4	86	0	0			
Tolls for 12 fortnightly markets	43	0	0			
Tolls at 4 fairs, at 7 3 4	28	13	4			
Tolls expected from Auctioneers ..	10	0	0			
Tolls from stalls, caravans, shows, &c.	5	0	0			
Annual receipts				222	13	4

Leaving a balance in favour of the parish at the end of each year of £.18 3s. 4d., and a freehold

house and market to the parish, at the expiration of 30 years, realising at least £.200 per annum, which would be the means of reducing the Local Board rate to less than one half the amount at present levied.

In this matter every publicity has been given, and all have been invited to attend the meeting, so that the feeling of the town may be ascertained. As Chairman of the Local Board I have acted as the representative of all the ratepayers, and not of a party, and it cannot be said that I have any selfish interest in establishing the market, for in case any increase of taxes should be required, Mrs. Jones and myself, who are about the largest ratepayers in the town, would have to suffer. As renters of the Three Salmons we receive about £4 per annum for the pens about the hotel; and as the principal farmers and dealers are around our doors, if the trade should be diverted we should sustain the greatest loss.

Mr. Lawrence, at some length, spoke in favour of obtaining the market, and proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Hiley:—“That the Usk Local Board be authorised, and the owners and ratepayers hereby consent to the Board providing a market place and other conveniences for the purpose of holding markets, and to provide houses and places for weighing carts: to make convenient approaches for such market; to provide all such matter and things as may be necessary for the convenient use of such market; to purchase and take on lease land and public or private rights in markets and tolls for any of the foregoing purposes; and to take stallages, rents, and tolls in respect of the use by any person of such market.”

Mr. Shepard proposed an amendment:—“That this meeting considers the centre of the town, behind Bridge Street, a most objectionable place for a stock or cattle market, and protests against any change being made in the mode of holding our markets and

fairs until a proper site is selected in the outskirts of the town, approved by the ratepayers."

The amendment was put to the meeting by the Chairman, and hands held up in its favour, after which the original proposition was voted for, and the Chairman decided that the amendment was carried by a large majority.



A Mechanic's Institute

WAS formed here in 1850, and was supported by subscriptions of members of 2s. 6d. per quarter to gain admission to the room, which was supplied with newspapers. There was a library in connection with the room, and members had the privilege of obtaining books from it for the perusal of themselves and their families. The funds for a time were much in arrear, and were augmented by a soir  e during the summer in the Castle, but it was a precarious mode of raising means. For the first few years these meetings were a novelty, and were well attended. At the seventh annual soir  e in 1857, there were nearly 1,500 persons present. The tickets were one shilling each for music, dancing and tea, and plum cakes were provided. The sum taken at the door amounted to £53 17s. 7d. After paying expenses there was a net profit of £16 17s. 6d. Upwards of 400 lb. of plum cake were provided. Two or three wet anniversaries entailed a loss, and the room was closed and the books sold to pay off the debts incurred.

A Freehold Land Society

WAS formed here on the 28th of November, 1859, on the proposition of Mr. James H. Clark, seconded by Mr. Oliver Davies. At that meeting 75 persons entered their names as members, and 100 shares were taken. Mr. Greenhow-Relph, Rev. W. H. Wrenford, Rev. George Thomas, Messrs. J. H. Clark, O. Davies, J. Davies, William Thomas, C. Stockham, C. H. Griffin and J. Keats were appointed a committee to prepare rules. The society was kept up for a few years. As some difficulty existed in obtaining a suitable piece of ground for building allotments, (the members having allowed the Priory land to slip from their hands by a mere quibble of about £70 in the purchase money), after a few years the society was broken up, and the funds divided.

Gas Works.

IN the year 1850 Messrs. James Williams and James H. Clark requested the Portreeve to call a meeting of the inhabitants to take into consideration the desirability of supplying the town with gas. Up to the year 1834 there was no light in the streets; but on the 1st of January in that year the old oil lamps from Chepstow, which had been supplanted by gas, were brought to Usk to light the town. Mr. D. E. Partridge, the Portreeve, convened the meeting, which was numerously attended. Mr. Clark stated to those present that Mr. Williams and himself had inspected several small Gas Works, and had come to the conclusion that the Works could be built and the pipes laid for about £1,600; and from enquiries made from consumers in Usk, he had no doubt the concern would pay the shareholders 6 per cent. This statement was considered by some present as chimerical, but others, who desired to improve the town, agreed to take shares, and a Company was formed in 1851, under the "Joint Stock Registration Act," for erecting Gas Works in the town. The Company consisted of 56 shareholders, who took shares to the number of 314, at £5 each, which amounted to the sum of £1,570. The Works were erected during the summer. The works are built on land near the Churchyard. The directors' room and the manager's house are built within the walls. The affairs of the Company are managed by twelve directors. The directors appointed by the deed, dated the 7th day of July, 1851, were:—Evan Jones, ironmonger; John Shepard, solicitor; William Henry Nicholl, gentleman; Alexander Waddington, solicitor; Thomas Dunn, maltster; James Henry Clark, stationer; William Price, glazier; John Edwards, druggist; William Phillips, gentleman; William Bull, grocer; and John Thomas, carpenter. Iltud Nicholl, Esq., was appointed trustee. Mr. Clark acted as one of the directors of the works up to 1878, and was the only member of

the first directorate then on the Board. Every year a dividend averaging ten per cent. has been paid to the shareholders.

Black Friars.

THE old building with dressed stone facing, standing in Four Ash Street, nearly opposite the east entrance gate to the churchyard, is so designated. It was occupied by a fraternity of Black Friars, and was in connexion with the Priory.

In Henry VIII.'s reign, Roger Williams, Esq., was a man of considerable property, and we find in the 36th year of that King's reign (1545) the Priory of Uske and other lands were granted to Roger Williams, of Uske, in consideration of a sum of money paid by Roger to the Crown. He had his arms and crest confirmed and ratified 15th March, 1575, 17th Elizabeth, viz.:—"Gyronny of eight, erm. and sa. a lion rampant or, on a wreath arg. and sa., a hound (or talbot) passant, per pale, erm. and or." In the 3rd year of Queen Elizabeth, Roger was high sheriff for the county of Monmouth, and at a prior date he purchased the Llangibby Castle estate, including the lordship of Tregrûg, which had been the property of the Kings of England from Edward IV.'s time. Roger Williams thus became of Llangibby as well as of Uske, and was also owner of Llanccayo and considerable property in Llanbaddock parish. He resided at Usk, in a large mansion known as

Ty Mawr, or The Great House.

THIS was the principal residence in the town. The house still stands in Old Market Street, and is now divided into a number of humble tenements, but some of the original corniced ceilings at present remaining, denote its former importance.

Roger Williams left his Llanbaddock estate, with the advowson of Llanbaddock Church to his second son, William, of Cefnïla, who married a daughter

of — Thomas, Esq., of Wenvoe Castle, Glamorganshire. It is probable he had property also in Llan-goview and Llanllowell, as his eldest son, Rowland, in his will mentions the property in these parishes.

Sir Rowland Williams, Knight, succeeded to Llan-gibby Castle, and was high sheriff of the County, 2 James I. He was distinguished by Queen Elizabeth and James I., and received the honour of Knighthood.

He married Cecil, daughter of Sir Edward Mansel, Knight, of Margam Abbey, Glamorganshire, by his wife, Lady Jane Somerset, daughter of Henry, Earl of Worcester, and had issue four sons and five daughters.


The Hospitium.

IN times past there was a Hospitium (formerly written *Llanspytty*, a house of entertainment for guests, where good refreshment for man and horse was to be had without expense: these Hospitals, or Hospitia, or Ysyptty, were once very numerous in Wales, and became prevalent at the time of the Crusades). The site of this building, at the bottom of Bridge Street, adjoined the old Bridewell.

The Bridewell or House of Correction,

FORMERLY stood on the right hand side of the main street leading to the bridge. In the year 1842, on the erection of the present commodious Gaol, this property was purchased by Mr. James Williams, merchant, who built his business premises thereon, and which are now occupied as a general grocery and drapery establishment. The remains of a Norman gateway existed up to the year 1876, when it was pulled down for the purpose of extending the premises. Traces of Tudor architecture are still to be seen in many parts of the building.





THE RIFLE VOLUNTEERS.



ON Wednesday, January 21st, 1860, a meeting took place at the Town Hall, Usk. Present—D. E. Partridge, Esq. (Portreeve), G. R. Greenhow-Relph, Esq., Alexander John Shepard, Esq., Major M'Donnell, Wm. H. Nicholl, Esq., Henry Roberts, Esq., Mr. J. H. Clark, Mr. T. Dunn, Mr. O. Davies, Mr. Bull, Mr. Keats, Mr. Dowell, and Mr. John Edwards. The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Horace Shepard, of Tredegar, giving his experience in the formation of a Rifle Corps in his town, of which he was Hon. Sec., and expressed his willingness to contribute three guineas to the Usk Rifle Corps, should one, unconnected with any other town, be formed. It was then resolved to form a Corps, to be called "The Usk Volunteer Rifle Corps," consisting of residents of the town of Usk and its vicinity. That the following lists be opened to obtain names, viz.: 1. Members who are willing to serve and equip themselves. 2. Members who are willing to serve and to be equipped out of the fund of the Corps. 3. Honorary Members who are willing to subscribe towards the fund of the Corps. The following entered their names in List 1: G. R. Greenhow-Relph, Esq., Mr. O. Davies, Mr. J. H. Clark, Mr. Dowell, Alex. J. Shepard, Esq., D. E. Partridge, Esq., and W. H. Nicholl, Esq. In List 2 there were no entries, as the Committee were not in a position to offer any inducements to parties to enter; but in List 3 the following very liberal subscriptions were entered:—G. R. Greenhow-Relph, Esq., £20; Iltyd Nicholl, Esq., £10 10s, Major M'Donnell, £5; Alexander Shepard, Esq.; £5; Henry Roberts, Esq., £3 3s.; Mr. Dunn, £3 3s.;

Mr. Keats, £3 3s.; M. P. Smith, Esq., Cefu Ha, £10; G. W. Nicholl, Esq., £10; Samuel Churchill, Esq., £5, etc., etc.

On the 24th of February, 1860, a meeting was held, when the Chairman, D. E. Partridge, Esq., announced that subscriptions to the amount of £119 2s. had been promised towards the formation of a Rifle Volunteer Corps in Usk.

An adjourned meeting of the Committee was held on the 2nd of March, there were present:—Daniel Esbury Partridge, Esq., Portreeve, in the chair; G. R. Greenhow-Relph, Esq., Michael Parker Smith, Esq., Major M'Donnell, Alex. J. Shepard, Esq., J. D. Falconer, Esq., William Henry Nicholl, Esq., Henry Greatwood, Esq., Messrs. J. H. Clark, Oliver Davies, and Henry Dowell. A resolution was passed unanimously "That the Volunteer Rifle Corps now forming in Usk shall in future be called 'The Usk and Raglan Rifle Corps.'" Mr. Clark mentioned that he, with Mr. William Nicholl, Mr. Oliver Davies and Mr. Henry Dowell, had called on some of the inhabitants and had added about £40 to the funds, which at the present amounted to £160.

At a meeting held on the 23rd of April, 61 members entered their names for enrolment.

Twenty members entered to equip themselves.

Forty-six members to be equipped from the funds.

The subscriptions then amounted to £335 4s. 6d.

On May 13th, Major Herbert was solicited to become Captain of the Corps, but he stated the heavy duties of Chief Constable occupied so much of his time that he could not devote that attention to the Corps which would be necessary, and he was obliged reluctantly to decline the honour. The Hon. James Fitzwalter Butler, son-in-law of Col. Clifford, was afterwards elected Captain; William Henry Nicholl, gentleman, Lieutenant; and Henry William Francis Greatwood, gentleman, Ensign.

On July 3rd, the members of the Corps assembled at the Town Hall and took the oath of allegiance :—

Nicholl, William Henry, Lieutenant.

Greatwood, Henry William Francis, Ensign.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Greenhow-Relf, G. R. | 27. Jones, William. |
| 2. Smith, M. P. | 28. Herbert, William. |
| 3. Falconer, John David. | 29. Hutchings, David. |
| 4. Clark, James Henry. | 30. Nicholas, George. |
| 5. Davies, Oliver. | 31. Lewis, Benjamin. |
| 6. Thomas, Herbert. | 32. Charles, William. |
| 7. Bradford, Hugh M. | 33. Morgan, William. |
| 8. Lucas, Richard. | 34. Thomas, William (3). |
| 9. Thomas, William. | 35. Blakemore, James. |
| 10. Stephens, Edwin Jas. | 36. Honey, Thomas. |
| 11. Waters, Wm. Edward. | 37. Macer, Charles. |
| 12. Thomas, William (2). | 38. Dowell, Henry. |
| 13. Roberts, William. | 39. Partridge, Dnl. Esbury. |
| 14. Williams, William. | 40. Herbert, John. |
| 15. Lucas, Joseph. | 41. Webb, Frederick. |
| 16. Jones, Charles. | 42. Shepard, Alex. John. |
| 17. Willetts, Edward. | 43. Marfell, George. |
| 18. Joshua, Joe Beeston. | 44. Jones, George Baile. |
| 19. Waters, Richard. | 45. Francis, Henry James. |
| 20. Rawlings, Hy. Strong. | 46. Williams, Isaac. |
| 21. Davies, Samuel. | 47. Roberts, John. |
| 22. Paine, James. | 48. Williams, James. |
| 23. Morgan, Thomas. | 49. Bayton, Benjamin. |
| 24. Jolliffe, Thomas | 50. Skipp, George. |
| 25. Evans, William. | 51. Willetts, John. |
| 26. Lewis, Thomas. | 52. Williams, John Thos. |

Before separating, His Honour Judge Falconer addressed the members, remarking "there were not many of them who remembered the last occasion on which Volunteers were raised—he was sorry to say he remembered that time. News of grave import reached home from the Continent; friends mourned for their relatives—widows bewailed the loss of their husbands—children wept for their parents. Then came the crash of bankruptcy—then the scarcity of work—then the dread of invasion. These things not only affected the rich man, but the poor one. If a similar war should again take place, the looms of the North would be at a standstill, and

the poor man would suffer as well as the rich. No money would compensate for the loss of trade—the wealth of the nation would be gone—and how irremediable would be the state of things if the invader once put his foot on English soil. The Emperor rules in France—he rules by his sole will—he has suppressed the great men of his country; and we cannot tell what a day may bring forth. In France and other countries the army was raised by conscription. On Saturday last an event took place which would be long remembered—30,000 Volunteers had assembled in Hyde Park before the Queen. These 30,000 men were not above one-quarter of the force of the country. The persons who form the Volunteer Corps are of a superior class. The duties they are required to perform will disturb as little as possible the ordinary duties of life, and with as little expense as practicable to themselves.”

After drill, the members assembled at the Town Hall to elect five of the Corps to form a Committee to assist the officers in carrying out the duties. The following were ballotted for and elected:—G. R. Greenhow-Relph, Esq., Messrs. J. H. Clark, O. Davies, Wm. Jones, and John Roberts.

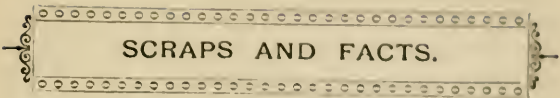
On the 3rd November a special meeting of the members took place, when Lieut W. H. Nicholl announced that Capt. the Hon. Fitzwalter Butler had been promoted to Major of the 2nd Battalion, and it therefore devolved upon the members to select another in his place, and he did not know any gentleman so well qualified in every respect for the post as Mr. Relph, and he begged to propose him. This Quarter-Master Partridge seconded, and Mr. Relph was unanimously elected. Ensign Greatwood, who had at that moment arrived, candidly confessed he was ambitious of promotion, and thought it should be the desire of all Officers to raise themselves; but believing that the appointment of his friend, Mr. Relph to the Captaincy would be for the general good of the Corps, he had waived his claim

to promotion. Sergeant Clark said before they separated they should testify their respect and esteem for their Lieutenant. Lieutenant Nicholl had given up his claim to the highest position in the Corps because he thought Mr. Relph was the gentleman who should be at their head. Their Lieutenant had been with the Company to many places, and the care, kindness and attention he had bestowed upon the men had won their esteem. He had proved himself to be as kind-hearted a gentleman as they could possibly have over them.

In 1861 the following members were added to the roll :—

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 53. Williams, James. | 65. Clark, William Henry. |
| 54. Waters, Edw. Walter. | 66. Relph, Francis. |
| 55. Davies, Thos. Morgan. | 67. Fisher, William B. |
| 56. Blakemore, Edward. | 68. Richardson, John. |
| 57. Lewis, John. | 69. Gething, W. B. |
| 58. Jones, Oliver. | 70. Morgan, John |
| 59. Nicholas, John Oliver. | 71. Stockham, Henry. |
| 60. Morgan, Tom. | 72. Anthony, George. |
| 61. Morgan, Edward. | 73. Williams, William. |
| 62. Morgan, William. | 74. Addis, Henry. |
| 63. Cassidy, James. | 75. Jenkins, Oliver. |
| 64. Bailey, Henry. | 76. Thomas, William (4). |





SCRAPS AND FACTS.

A salmon weighing 69½ lb. was caught in the river Usk, near the town, in 1782.

At the Quarter Sessions, at Usk, on the 3rd of January, 1832, at which Lord Granville Somerset presided, 22 prisoners were tried. David Griffiths was convicted of having stolen two pigs from James Blower, Little Castle, Gwehelog, and Richard Williams, of stealing a neck of pork belonging to Mr. Francis Morgan, of Usk.

At Gwernesney, near Usk, on the 9th of January, 1832, a fat sow belonging to Mr. Perrott was killed, which weighed 22 score 10 lbs., and on opening her 27 small pigs were found; this, it is probable, would have been the greatest number ever known at one farrow. The sow was not two years old. If she had been allowed to bring forward this litter, she would have had 61 pigs in one year: having at her first farrow brought 19, and at the second 15, all of which were reared. Mr. Perrott was like the boy who killed the goose that laid the golden eggs.

On the passing of the Reform Bill it was unanimously agreed in Committee that an additional Member should be given to Monmouthshire, but on the 14th of March, 1832, that concession was revoked, on the suggestion of Lord Althorp, by a majority of 45.

A robbery was committed at Trostrey Court, near Usk, in August, 1832, the depredators carrying off five hives of bees belonging to Mr. Nicholas.

In the autumn of 1832 there were sixteen persons imprisoned in the House of Correction, at Usk, for selling, or offering for sale, the cheap periodicals.

In October, 1832, was chronicled the death of Mrs. Mary Bowditch, of Usk, at the age of 92. Notwithstanding her very advanced age, she was in the habit of attending Pontypool market every Saturday until a short time before her death, and so late as the previous July she walked from her house to Pontypool no less than three times during one week; and within a very short period of her death she brewed, tunned, etc., for her son, who kept a retail beerhouse in Usk.

It would appear that in times past, persons were not so in dread of making use of actionable expressions as they are in the present day. In a county newspaper, nearly sixty years ago, appeared the following:—

“CAUTION.—Whereas a woman, passing by the name of Elizabeth Watkins, who hires herself occasionally as cook, and in which capacity she lived in the advertiser’s service for four months, has proved herself to be of notoriously bad character. This is to caution heads of families against employing her, as she is totally unworthy of trust. She is of middle age, thin, and slight stature, with sunken and squinting eyes; altogether a very forbidding countenance.

“COLTHURST BATEMAN.

“Bertholly House, Monmouthshire,

“April 25th, 1833.”

On the 6th of May, 1833, the premises of Mr. William C. Blyth, in New Market Street, were broken into. Mr. Blyth disturbed the nocturnal visitants, who decamped. About a fortnight previously his shop was broken into, and a quantity of drapery goods stolen, which were afterwards found concealed in Graig-y-nalt Wood. Some notorious characters belonging to the town and neighbourhood were suspected, but nothing transpired to warrant their apprehension. After some weeks spent in endeavouring to discover the thieves, Mr.

Blyth issued the following notice :—

"FELONY.—FIVE GUINEAS REWARD.

"Whereas Philip George and James Morgan, both of the parish of Llangeview, in the county of Monmouth, suspected of being concerned with another in breaking into the dwelling-house of Mr. W. Cheyney Blyth, of Usk, on the 20th of April last, having absconded, a Reward of Five Guineas will be given by the said W. C. Blyth, to any person who will apprehend the same Philip George and James Morgan, or either of them, and bring them or him before His Majesty's Justices of the Peace at Usk, or will give such information as will lead to the apprehension of either of them." (Then follows a description of the men.)

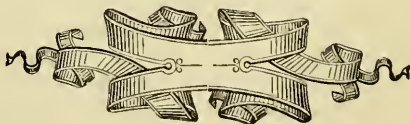
At the Michaelmas Sessions in 1834, John Morgan, aged 18, and Sarah Hambury, aged 28, of Usk, were tried for robbing the dwelling-house of John Roberts, a blind man, residing at Llanbaddock. The male prisoner was sentenced to 14 years' transportation and the female to 7 years'. Lord Granville Somerset, the chairman, in passing sentence, said it was necessary that it should be understood that transportation was no longer a lenient punishment; but, on the contrary, was purposely rendered extremely severe.

James Morgan, aged 22, a brother of the above, was tried in April in the following year for being concerned in the same robbery. He continued to remain at large until, through the praiseworthy exertions of Mr. W. C. Blyth, grocer, of Usk, whose premises had been twice robbed, and, there was reason to believe, by the same prisoner, he was apprehended on the 28th of February. The principal evidence was that given by a little girl named Margaret Evans, who had been left in charge of the prosecutor's house.

In October, 1848, there was a contest for the civic chair between Mr. Evan Jones, japanner, and Mr. William Jones, draper. The former polled 34 votes and the latter 14. Mr. Evan Jones was elected by a majority of 20.

On Christmas Day, 1859, Michael Parker Smith, Esq., of Cefn Ila, near Usk, with considerate kindness, enabled his workmen, with their wives and families, to enjoy themselves by distributing to each in his employ from 4 lb. to 6 lb. of beef, a plum pudding, and a gallon of beer.

At the County Court held at Usk on the 15th of June, 1857, Major Stretton, James Greenfield and others entered an action against Mr. Percival, of Newbridge, and Richard Phillips, farmer, of Llanbaddock, for a trespass on the fishery of the Trostrey Weir Association, in the parishes of Llantrissant, Llangibby, and Llanbadoc. The evidence was given, but as the case involved a question of title, the landowners having given the defendants leave to angle from their land, Judge Herbert declined to adjudicate. The defendants were shortly afterwards served with notice that the action would be tried at the Monmouth Assizes, to which Mr. Phillips put in an appearance, but applied to have the venue removed to Gloucester, on the ground that many of the gentry of Monmouthshire were members of the Trostrey Weir Association, and had great influence in the county.





APPENDIX

TO THE

USK GUIDE.



1891.

TRUSTEES OF ROGER EDWARDS' CHARITY.
USK, MONMOUTHSHIRE.

*This Charity was established by Deed dated in the
year 1621.*

FIRST TRUSTEES.—1625.

1. Walter Rumsey, Esquire.
 2. John Rumsey, of Usk.
 3. Richard Morgan, of Usk.
 4. Edward Rumsey, of Usk.
 5. John Saunders, of Ragland.
 6. Walter Powell, of St. Alban's, Christchurch.
 7. John Williams, of Kilgwrwg.
-

[By Deed] 1632

- 1.*Walter Rumsey, of Llanover.
 - 2.*John Rumsey.
 - 3.*Richard Morgan.
 - 4.*John Williams.
 5. Henry Rumsey.
 6. Edward Rumsey.
 7. Walter Rumsey, junr.
 8. Thomas Morgan.
 9. Edward Morgan, junr.
-

The Family Party of 1632 having abused their Trust, the Court of Chancery ordered the appointment of new Trustees; namely :—

[By Deed] 1663.

1. Sir Trevor Williams, of Usk, Baronet.
 2. Edward Williams, Esq. (brother of Sir Trevor Williams).
 3. Thomas Herbert, of Usk Castle.
 4. Matthew Powell, of Usk, Gentleman.
 5. John Rumsey, of Usk, Gentleman.
 6. Edward Williams, of Usk, Gentlemen.
 7. George Harris, of Llangeview, Gentleman.
-

* Parties conveying Trust Property to new Trustees.

1772.

The Court of Chancery again interfered, and the following Trustees were appointed by the order of the Court:—

1. Rev. Henry Rogers, of Usk, Rector of Gwernesney, (died 1st June, 1788).
2. Thomas Lewis, Esq., a Magistrate (died 4th September, 1784).
3. Richard Jones, Alderman, of Usk (died March, 1798).
4. Rev. Richard Vaughan Norman, of Usk, a Magistrate.
5. David Jones, Alderman, of Usk.
6. Robert Kinsey, of Usk, Gentleman (died 10th August, 1791).
7. Rev. Rice Davies, Vicar of Llangwm (died 20th October, 1798).

[By Deed] 1789.

- 1.*Rev. Richard Vaughan Norman.
- 2.*David Jones.
- 3.*Robert Kinsey.
- 4.*Rev. Rice Davies.
5. Rev. Thomas Addams Williams, Vicar of Usk.
6. Philip Jones, Gentleman.
7. John Watkins, of Llangwm.

[By Deed] 1791.

- 1.*Rev. Richard Vaughan Norman.
- 2.*David Jones.
- 3.*Philip Jones.
- 4.*John Watkins.
5. Rev. Edmund Watkins, of Llangwm.
6. Thomas Jones, of Usk.
7. Philip Reece, of Usk.
8. Thomas Prothero, of Usk, Solicitor.
9. Thomas Davies, of Usk, Surgeon.

[By Deed] 1708.

- 1.*Thomas Jones.
- 2.*John Watkins.
- 3.*Thomas Prothero.
4. Alexander Jones.
5. Ilyd Nicholl, Esq., of Usk.
6. Thomas Hughes.
7. John Olive (discharged at his own request, by order of the Court of Chancery, in 1811).

[By Deed] 1813.

- 1.*John Watkins.
 - 2.*Thomas Prothero.
 - 3.*Alexander Jones.
 - 4.*Iltyd Nicholl.
 5. Thomas Hughes (discharged 1821, by his own request).
 6. Thomas Williams.
 7. Richard George.
 8. Edward Berry.
-

[By Deed] 1821.

- 1.*John Watkins.
 - 2.*Alexander Jones.
 - 3.*Richard George.
 - 4.*Iltyd Nicholl, Esq.
 5. Rev. Thomas Addams Williams (a).
 6. Rev. Benjamin Jones, Gwernesney.
 7. William Addams Williams, Esq. (then of Usk), Llangibby Castle.
-

[By Deed] 1822.

Henry Pocock, Esq.
Rev. James Barnard Davies.

1831.

Rev. John Fowell Jones, Rector of Gwernesney (*vice* R. George). Nominated.
Thomas Reece, Esq. (*vice* Benjamin Jones). Nominated.

1836.

Rev. James Ashe Gabb (*vice* J. Watkins). Nominated.

1841.

Rev. John Fleming, Vicar of Llangwm (*vice* H. Pocock). Nominated.

(a) In 1691 a new Trustee was appointed in the place of the Rev. Thomas Addams Williams, "who had removed to Llanbaddock, and declined acting;" but the Rev. Mr. Williams was a party to the appointment of new Trustees in 1821, and he was "not a party to the information in Chancery in the year 1811." As a continuing Trustee in 1811, he ought to have been a party to the information.—See 1843.

1842.

By Deed of May 20, 1842, the Trustees were:—

- 1.*Alexander Jones, Esq., Solicitor, Clerk of the Peace.
 - 2.*Iltyd Nicholl, Esq., of Usk.
 - 3.*Rev. Thomas Addams Williams, Vicar of Usk.
 - 4.*William Addams Williams, Esq., of Llangibby Castle.
 - 5.*Rev. James Barnard Davies.
 6. Thomas Reece, Esq., of Usk.
 7. Rev. John Fowell Jones, Rector of Gwernesney.
 8. Rev. James Ashe Gabb.
 9. Rev. John Fleming, Vicar of Llangwm.
-

1843.

Rev. William Evans, Vicar (c) of Usk, *vice* Rev. Thomas A. Williams (b), Nominated only.

1847.

- Rev. John Irving (c). Nominated.
 Rev. James Blower (c). Nominated.
-

1858.

Rev. William Price (c). Nominated.

1860.

By Deed dated June 20, the Trustees were:—

- 1.*Iltyd Nicholl, Esq., of Usk.
 - 2.*William Addams Williams, Esq., of Llangibby Castle (deceased).
 - 3.*Rev. John Fowell Jones, Rector of Gwernesney and Vicar of Saul, Perpetual Curate of Norton Valance (non-resident).
 4. Thomas Falconer, Esq., Judge of the County Courts of Glamorganshire and Brecknockshire, of Usk.
 5. William Henry Nicholl, Esq., of Usk.
 6. Rev. Stephen Cattley Baker, Vicar of Usk.
 7. Rev. Arthur Williams, Incumbent of Llanbaddock.
 8. Rev. James Blower, Incumbent of Llangeview (deceased).
 9. Daniel Esbury Partridge, Esq., Portreeve of Usk.
 10. Rev. William Price, Vicar of Llangwm.
-

(b) Special notice ordered to be given to each Trustee of this intended nomination (May 17, 1843).

(c) These were mere nominations, and no valid appointments by deed were made. Those named under the years 1831, 1836, 1841, 1843, 1847, and 1858, were then merely nominated and were not appointed until some time afterwards, and two of the number never held the Estates.

The Trustees were to be "of the most sufficient and discreet inhabitants of the parishes of Usk, Llangwm, Llangewiew, and Gwernesney, or one of them," and might be eight, nine, or ten in number. [Deed, 27th April, 1622].

1862.

New Scheme established November 7th, 1862, by the order of the Charity Commissioners.

1868.

1. Rev. Stephen Cattley Baker, Vicar of Usk.
2. Rev. Arthur Williams, of the town of Usk, Clerk.
3. Daniel Esbury Partridge, of the town of Usk, Esq.
4. Rev. William Price, of the parish of Llangwm, Clerk.
5. Rev. Samuel Wright Gardner, of Trostrey Lodge, in the hamlet of Clytha, Clerk.
6. William Barkley Gething, of the Rhadyr, in the parish of Llanbaddock, Esq.
7. Rev. Charles John Elliott Walkey, of the parish of Llantrissant, Clerk.
8. Edward Lister, of Cefn Ila, in the parish of Llanbaddock, Esq.
9. Rev. James Blower, of the parish of Gwernesney, Clerk.
10. Richard Brown Roden, of the town of Usk, Esq.
11. John Jefferies Stone, of Scyborwen, in the parish of Llantrissant, Esq.
12. Henry Charles Byrde, of Goytre House, in the parish of Goytre, Esq.
13. Alexander John Shepard, of the town of Usk, Esq.
14. Hume Nicholl, of the town of Usk, Esq.

Head Master of Grammar School:

Rev. W. H. Wrenford, B.A., of Trinity College, Dublin, and Curate of Llanllowell.

TRUSTEE ELECTED.	IN PLACE OF.	WHEN APPOINTED.
Thomas Dunn, Esq.	E. Partridge, Esq..	30th June, 1869.
S. W. Gardner, Esq.	Capt. Hume Nicholl	} 29th Mar., 1871.
D. Boulton, Esq. ..	Rev. E. J. Walkey	
Thos Watkins, Esq.	E. L. Lister, Esq...	6th June, 1877.
J. H. Clark, Esq. ...	Col. Roden.....	5th Dec., 1877.
John Lewis, Esq. ..	Thomas Dunn, Esq.	5th June, 1878.
James Parker, Esq.	Rev. A. Williams ..	13th Dec., 1878.
Rev F. L. Salusbury	J. J. Stone, Esq. ..	9th Jan., 1879.
Major Bowyer-Lane	Col. H. C. Byrde ..	6th Dec., 1882.
J. F. Powell, Esq...	S. W. Gardner, Esq.	6th June, 1883.

1885.

1. Rev. Stephen Cattley Baker, Vicarage, Usk.
2. Rev. William Price, Vicarage, Llangwm, Usk.
3. Rev. James Blower, Rectory, Gwernesney, Usk.
4. Rev. Folliett Lynch Salusbury, Rectory, Llangibby.
5. William Barkley Gething, Esq., Ivy Cottage, Usk.
6. James Henry Clark, Esq., Usk.
7. Thomas Watkins, Esq., Usk.
8. James Parker, Esq., Usk.
9. Major F. W. Bowyer-Lane, Usk.
10. John Farmer Powell, Esq., Usk.

1887.

Evelyn Waddington, Esq., Glen Court, Llanllowell, *vice* John Farmer Powell, Esq.

1890.

THE PRESENT TRUSTEES:

1. Rev. Stephen Cattley Baker, Vicarage, Usk.
2. Rev. James Blower, Gwernesney Rectory, Usk.
3. Rev. Folliett Lynch Salusbury, Llangibby Rectory.
4. W. B. Gething, Esq., Llanbaddock, Usk.
5. J. H. Clark, Esq., Usk.
6. Thomas Watkins, Esq., Usk.
7. James Parker, Esq., Usk.
8. Evelyn Waddington, Esq., Glen Court, Llanllowell.
9. Uriah J. Lewis, Esq., The Court, Llanllowell.

Head Master of Grammar School:

J. H. Priestley, Esq., B.A.



CHARITY COMMISSION.

In the matter of the Charity founded by Roger Edwards, in the Parishes of Usk, Llangewiew, Gwernesney, and Llangwm Ucha, in the County of Monmouth and elsewhere.

The Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, having considered an application in writing, made to them on the 20th day of May, 1862, by Thomas Falconer, of the above-mentioned parish of Usk, Esquire, William Henry Nicholl, of the same place, Esquire, the Reverend Stephen Cattley Baker, of the same place, Clerk; the Reverend Arthur Williams, of the same place, Clerk; the Reverend William Price, of the above-mentioned parish of Llangwm Ucha, Clerk; and Daniel Esbury Partridge, of the said parish of Usk, Esquire; who together with Iltyd Nicholl, of the said parish of Usk, Esquire, and the Reverend John Fowell Jones, of Frampton-on-Severn, in the county of Gloucester, Clerk, are the present Trustees of the above-mentioned Charity: And it appearing to the said Board that the endowment of the said Charity consists of the lands and hereditaments particularized and described in the second Schedule hereto, and that it is desirable and for the advantage of the said Charity that the Scheme for its future regulation and management, which is set forth in the first Schedule hereto, should be established by order of the Board, in manner hereafter mentioned. And

upon notice of the intention of the said Board to make the order hereinafter contained, having by the direction of the said Board been given and affixed to, or near a principal outer door of the Parish Churches of Usk, Llangwm Ucha, Llangeview, and Gwernesney, on the 30th day of August, 1862, being more than one calendar month previously to the date hereof, and having also been sent by post unto the said Iltyd Nicholl and John Fowell Jones, on the 7th day of November, 1862: Do hereby order that the Scheme set forth in the first Schedule hereto be approved and established.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO.

S C H E M E .

Number of Trustees to be appointed.

1.—There shall in future be fourteen* Trustees of the Charity, who shall be fit and competent persons resident in the parish of Usk, or within the distance of five miles from the Church thereof. And as soon as conveniently may be after the establishment of this Scheme, the present Trustees of the Charity shall appoint so many fit and proper persons as shall be required for making up the full number of fourteen Trustees, provided that no such appointment shall be valid or complete until the same shall have been approved by the Board of Her Majesty's Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, under their official seal.

* This number was afterwards amended and reduced to nine.

Disqualification of Trustees.

2.—Any Trustee of the Charity who shall become bankrupt or insolvent, or incapacitated to act, or who shall cease to be resident in the said parish of Usk, or within the distance of five miles from the Church thereof, or who shall not attend any meeting of the Trustees during a consecutive period of two years, shall in any of such cases immediately cease to be a Trustee, and thereupon, or upon the death or resignation of any such Trustee, a new Trustee, qualified as aforesaid, shall be appointed by the other Trustees at their first meeting, which shall be held after the lapse of one calendar month next after the occurrence of such vacancy, by a resolution to be forthwith notified by them, with all proper information, to the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, at their office in London; but no such appointment shall be valid until the same shall have been approved by the said Commissioners, and their approval certified under their official seal.

Times of holding Meetings.—Voting.

3.—The Trustees shall hold meetings in some convenient place within the parish of Usk, as often as may be necessary for the management of the Charity, and at least twice in each year, on the first Wednesday in June, and the first Wednesday in December. The senior Trustee present according to the date or order of his appointment shall be the Chairman at every meeting. Five Trustees shall form a quorum at any meeting.

Any two Trustees may summon a special meet-

ing, giving ten days' previous notice in writing to the other Trustees, and specifying in such notice the object of such meeting.

All matters and questions shall be determined by the majority of the Trustees present at any meeting; and in case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a double or casting vote.

Books to be provided and securely deposited.

4.—A minute book and proper books of account shall be provided by the Trustees, and kept in some convenient and secure place of deposit, to be provided or appointed by them for that purpose; and minutes of the entry into office, or the appointment of every new Trustee, and of all proceedings of the Trustees, shall be entered in such minute book and signed by the Chairman at the termination of the proceedings at each meeting.

Charity to be divided into Three Branches.

5.—For the purposes of this Scheme, the Charity shall be divided into three Branches, to be called respectively,

The Usk Branch;

The Almshouse Branch; and

The Country Branch.

The sum of £530 10s. 1d., £3 per cent. Consolidated Annuities, now standing in the names of three of the Trustees of the Charity (having been purchased with the proceeds of the sale of timber upon the Charity Estate), and all other sums (if any) which at the time of the establishment of this Scheme shall be in the hands or under the control of the

Trustees, arising from the sale of such timber (not belonging exclusively to any one of the said Branches of the said Charity), or from the clear surplus income of the Charity, shall be apportioned and divided by the Trustees to and amongst the said three Branches of the Charity, in augmentation of their respective endowments, in manner following, namely: Six-fifteenths to "The Usk Branch," eight-fifteenths to "The Almshouse Branch," and one-fifteenth to "The Country Branch." The real endowment belonging to, and applicable to the purposes of each of the said Branches of the said Charity, respectively, are distinguished and set forth in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd parts of the Schedule hereto.

Buildings and Houses to be insured.

6. All the buildings and houses belonging to each Branch of the Charity respectively (not insured by the lessees or tenants, if any), shall be kept insured by the Trustees, in their names, for a sufficient sum in some established office for effecting insurances against fire, and shall be maintained and kept in repair by the Trustees or the tenants. The cost of such insurance (and of repair when made by the Trustees), and the proper expenses attending the management and administration of each Branch of the Charity and its property, shall be defrayed by the Trustees in the first instance out of the income of such Branch.

Separate Accounts of Branches to be kept.

7.—Separate and full accounts shall be kept of the receipts and expenditure of the Trustees in

respect of each Branch of the Charity in the books to be provided for that purpose ; and such accounts shall be examined and passed annually at the December meeting, and signed by the Trustees then present.

Clerk and his Duties.

8.—The Trustees shall be at liberty, if they think fit, to appoint and employ a person as Clerk, at an annual salary not exceeding £20, to be paid rateably out of the income of each Branch of the Charity ; and such person shall keep and make out the annual returns of the accounts of the Charity, and shall receive the rents and income, and make the several payments thereout, under the immediate control and superintendence of the Trustees, who shall be responsible for the due application by him of all such moneys ; and he shall give notice to the Trustees of all vacancies in their number, and of meetings for the election of Trustees, and for other purposes, and shall discharge all such other duties connected with the Charity, as shall be required of him by the Trustees.

Property—in whose name to be invested.

9.—The legal estate in the lands and hereditaments particularized and described in the second Schedule to the Order establishing this Scheme, and all other lands, tenements, and hereditaments (if any) belonging to, or held in trust for the said Charity, shall be vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands, and his successors, in trust for the Charity.

Letting or Leasing Property by Tender.

10.—All the estates and property of the Charity, not required to be retained or occupied for the purposes thereof, shall be let and otherwise managed by the Trustees, who shall receive all the rents and annual and other income; and in every case public notice of the intention to let any land or other property shall be given by the Trustees in the said parish of Usk, and also in any different parish or parishes in which such land or property shall be situate, in such manner as they shall consider most effectual for giving publicity to such intention, at least three weeks previously; and no lease shall be granted in reversion, or for more than seven years certain, or for less than the improved annual value at rack rent, without the sanction of the Charity Commissioners, or a competent Court. Until the Trustees, with the consent of the Charity Commissioners, shall otherwise determine, the estates of the Charity shall from time to time be let by tender.

Money arising from Sale of Timber.

11.—Any money arising from any future sale of timber, or from any mines or minerals on the Charity Estate, shall be treated as capital, and invested in the Government Funds in the names of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, in trust for the Branch of the Charity to which it belongs, except in any special cases, in which the Trustees may be authorized by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales to apply such money or any part thereof as income.

AS TO THE USK BRANCH OF THE CHARITY.

(See Page 35.)

USK GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOUNDATION.

Resolution creating Scholarships with Two-tenths of Net Annual Income, unanimously carried at a Meeting of the Governors held on 26th July, 1889, and approved by the Charity Commissioners by letter to the Chairman dated the 23rd day of May, 1890.

1. That inasmuch as there is no probability of the Governors being able, in the near future, to create Scholarships out of the seven-tenths of the net annual income of the Foundation appropriated to the Grammar School as contemplated by the 47th Section of the Scheme, the two-tenths of the said net annual income, now applied in payment of the money, gifts, or doles to the survivors of certain poor persons, and subject thereto for or towards the support or benefit of the existing Elementary Schools of Usk, shall, subject to the payment of the money, gifts, or doles aforesaid, be used to maintain in the Grammar School three Scholarships in the form of total exemptions from tuition fees, with a sum of £3 per annum added to each.

2.—That every such Scholarship shall be open to any boy of 12, but not exceeding 14 years, resident in Usk, who shall have for at least three years attended some Public Elementary School for the time being therein, and shall be reported by his Master and the Managers of his School as being

deserving of it by reason of his character and good conduct, and shall be granted as the reward of merit on the result of an examination, to be conducted by the Head Master of the Grammar School, or such other Examiner as may be appointed by the Governors, and shall, except as before provided, be freely and openly competed for.

3.—That any Scholarship for which there shall be no duly qualified Candidate, who, on examination shall be adjudged worthy to take it, shall for that term not be awarded.

4.—That every such Scholarship shall be held for a period of not exceeding three years, to be extended at the discretion of the Governors to four years, if recommended by the Head Master, and in each case for purposes of education at the Grammar School, and whilst the holder is under the age of 16 years only.

5.—That if the holder of a Scholarship shall in the judgment of the Governors be guilty of serious misconduct or idleness, or fail to maintain a reasonable standard of proficiency, or wilfully cease to pursue his education, the Governors may deprive him of his Scholarship, and for this purpose may act on the report of the Head Master, or on such other evidence as they think sufficient, and their decision in each case shall be final.

6.—And that every such Scholarship and the holder thereof shall be subject to such further and other regulations and variations of these Resolutions as may from time to time be made by the Governors.

Dated this 10th day of June, 1890,

FENTON GEO. HARRIS,

Clerk to the Governors,

Usk Grammar School Foundation.

*Statement shewing Date of Appointment of each Governor; also Date of Expiration of
Official Term; and by whom appointed.*

NAME OF GOVERNOR.	DATE OF APPOINTMENT.	BY WHOM APPOINTED.	TERM OF OFFICE.	DATE OF EXPIRATION OF TERM OF OFFICE.
Stephen C. Baker.....	17th January, 1886	Trustees R. E. C....	7 years	17th January, 1893.
William B. Gething ..	17th January, 1886	Trustees R. E. C....	7 years	17th January, 1893.
Thomas Watkins	17th January, 1886	Trustees R. E. C....	7 years	17th January, 1893.
*James Henry Clark....	1st December, 1886	Trustees R. E. C....	7 years	1st December, 1893.
*Henry C. Griffin	2nd March, 1887	Local Board	5 years	2nd March, 1892.
Sidney A. Hiley	8th July, 1887.....	Local Board	5 years	8th July, 1892.
Charles Voyce	4th September, 1889.....	Trustees R. E. C....	7 years	4th September, 1896.
*Sidney Smith	2nd October, 1889.....	Local Board	5 years	2nd October, 1894.
*James Jones	2nd October, 1889	Local Board	5 years	2nd October, 1894.

* Those marked with an asterisk were re-elected.

AS TO THE ALMSHOUSE BRANCH OF THE CHARITY.

Number and Appointment of Almspeople.

34.—The Almshouse shall be appropriated to and used for the occupation of twelve Almspeople, to be appointed from time to time by the Trustees as hereinafter mentioned, in such manner and subject to such reasonable regulations as the Trustees may from time to time prescribe, consistently with the provisions of this Scheme.

Qualification of Almspeople.

35.—The Almspeople shall be poor persons of either sex, of good character, who shall have resided in one of the parishes of Llangwm Ucha, Llan-geview, or Gwernesney, not less than three years next preceeding their appointment without receiving parochial relief, and who from age, ill-health, accident, or infirmity shall be unable to maintain themselves by their own exertions; with a preference for those persons who, being otherwise qualified as aforesaid, shall have become reduced by misfortune from better circumstances. In default of eligible candidates from any of the said parishes, residents in any adjoining parish, being similarly qualified, may be appointed to fill vacancies in the Almshouse.

Book with Names, Ages, &c., of Almspeople.

36.—The Trustees shall provide and keep a book, in which shall be entered the names, ages and descriptions of all persons appointed to the Almshouse, together with the dates of their respective appointments, and the date and occasion of every vacancy.

Vacancies to be filled up.

37.—Every vacancy in the Almshouse shall be filled up by the Trustees, as soon as conveniently may be, by the appointment of some duly qualified person, such appointment to be made at a meeting of the Trustees duly convened for that purpose.

Vacancies in Suspension.

The Trustees may, however, by resolution, defer or suspend, for a period not exceeding six calendar months from the occurrence of any vacancy, the time at which any newly-elected Almsperson shall be entitled to receive the benefit of the Charity, and to reside in the Almshouses.

Application for Admission to Almshouse.

38.—Applications for admission to the Almshouse shall be made to the Trustees, or to their Clerk, either personally or in writing; and every applicant must be prepared with sufficient testimonials and other evidence of qualification for the appointment.

Notice intimating Vacancy and Appointment of Almsperson.

39.—No appointment of an Almsperson shall be made until a notice of the vacancy, specifying the qualification required, shall have been affixed to or near the principal outer door or entrance gate of the Almshouses, and of the Parish Churches of Llangwm Ucha, Llangview, Gwernesney, and Usk respectively, for the period of fifteen days at the least. Such notice shall be given in every case before the expiration of one calendar month from

the vacancy, and may be in the following form, viz.:

"IN THE MATTER OF ROGER EDWARDS' ALMSHOUSE CHARITY.

"The Trustees of this Charity give Notice that they will, on
the day of 18 ,
proceed to elect an Alms to fill a vacancy in the Alms-
houses which has been occasioned by the of

. The Election will take place at o'clock
on that day, at . Poor of
good character, who have been resident in the parish of
 for three years at least, and who from age,
ill-health, accident, or infirmity, are unable to maintain them-
selves by their own exertions, are eligible for the appointment,
those persons who have become reduced by misfortune from
better circumstances being entitled to a preference.

"Application for the appointment must be made either per-
sonally or in writing to the Trustees or their Clerk, at ,
fourteen days at least previously to the Election. Every appli-
cant must state his (or her) name, address, age, and occupation,
and must be prepared with sufficient testimonials and other
evidence of his (or her) qualification for the appointment.

"Signed,

} Trustees."

Disposal of Profits accruing during Vacancy in Almshouse.

40.—The profits accruing during each vacancy in
the Almshouse may be applied by the Trustees, if
they so think fit, in defraying the funeral expenses
of the deceased inmate, if the vacancy be occasioned
by death, or in whitewashing, cleaning, or repairing
the vacated tenement, previously to its occupation
by the successor. The balance of such profits (if
any) shall be carried to the repairing fund herein-
after mentioned.

Money paid to Inmates of Almshouse.

41.—There shall be paid to each Almsperson such

a weekly sum, not being less than 5s., and not more than 7s., as shall be fixed and determined from time to time by the Trustees, having regard to the income and resources of the Charity, and the other circumstances thereof. The Trustees shall likewise pay to each Almsperson annually £2 at Michaelmas, and £1 at Christmas; or they may from time to time expend any suitable portions of such weekly or other sums in providing such Almspersons respectively with fuel, clothing, or other necessary comforts, as the Trustees shall think fit.

Appointment of Nurse and her Stipend.

42.—They shall be at liberty to pay to one of the Almswomen, to be selected and appointed by them as the Matron, an additional stipend of £5 a year, in consideration whereof she shall discharge such duties connected with the Almshouse and the inmates as the Trustees shall direct.

Appointment and Removal of Chaplain.

43.—There shall be a Chaplain to the Almshouses, who shall be a clergyman in holy orders of the Established Church, and whose duty it shall be to perform Divine Service in the Chapel there once at least on every Sunday, and on Good Friday and Christmas Day, and to visit and give spiritual ministration to the Almspeople at such other times as may be necessary or desirable. The Chaplain shall be appointed by the Trustees, and may be removed by them at any time by a resolution passed at a meeting at which not less than two-thirds of the entire number of the Trustees shall have been present and have voted.

Chaplain's Stipend and Allowances.

44.—The Trustees shall pay to the present Chaplain a salary of £21 per annum out of the income of the Almshouse Branch of the Charity, and shall be at liberty to pay a salary not exceeding that amount to his successor. The sum of £1 ls. per annum shall also be allowed and paid by the Trustees to the Chaplain for providing sacramental bread and wine for use in the said Chapel.

Medical Attendant and Remuneration, and his Duties.

45.—The Trustees shall be at liberty to appoint a duly qualified medical practitioner to attend upon the Almspeople, and to supply them with such medicines and medical appliances as may be necessary, at a yearly salary not exceeding £10, such salary to include the cost of such medicines and appliances; and they may also provide the Almspeople with any necessary attendance in case of illness, at the cost of the Charity. The Medical Officer may be removed at any time by the Trustees.

As to Absence of Inmates from Almshouse.

46.—No Almsperson shall be absent from the Almshouse for a period exceeding twenty-four hours without the consent in writing of the Trustees, or some two or more of them; but in special cases such consent may for any sufficient reason be given retrospectively, after the absence has occurred.

*As to Insubordination, &c., of Inmates, and
Removal.*

47.—If any Almsperson shall be guilty of insubriety, insubordination, breach of rules, or immoral or unbecoming conduct, or shall become disqualified from retaining his or her appointment, or if in any case it should appear that any Almsperson has been appointed without having the required qualifications, the Trustees, upon proof thereof to their satisfaction, may remove such Almsperson, and take possession of the tenement or room occupied by him or her, and may proceed to appoint another Almsperson in his or her place, or in any such case (except that of disqualification) the Trustees may, if they so think fit, suspend the payment of the stipend to the Almsperson, either wholly or in part, during such time as they shall think fit and expedient.

*Almsperson to retain possession of Room.—As to
Admission of Strangers.*

48.—No Almsperson shall let or part with the possession of the room or rooms allotted to him or her, nor shall any stranger be permitted to occupy the same or any part thereof without the consent of the Trustees, and, except in the case of both of a married couple being appointed to vacancies in the Almshouse, the term stranger shall include the husband or wife of any married Almsperson.

Trustees may prescribe Regulations, &c.

49.—The Trustees may from time to time prescribe such reasonable regulations as they may consider expedient for the government of the Almshouse and the inmates and officers thereof, provided that no such regulation be at variance or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Scheme,

Disposal of Surplus Income.

50.—The Trustees shall from time to time invest the surplus annual income of the Almshouse Branch of the Charity in the purchase of £3 per cent. consolidated annuities, for the formation of a fund for the substantial repair or improvement of the Almshouses when needed. When such fund shall amount to £400 consols, the said surplus income, including the dividends on such consols, shall be applied by the Trustees, with the sanction of the Charity Commissioners, either in increasing the number of Almspeople, or in augmenting their respective stipends, or in some other manner for the promotion of the objects of the Almshouse Branch of the Charity.

Whenever the said repairing fund shall have been wholly or partially expended, the Trustees shall apply the said surplus income in replacing the sum so expended, so as to maintain the repairing fund at the aforesaid full amount of £400.

AS TO THE COUNTRY BRANCH OF
THE CHARITY.

Disposal of Net Annual Income.

51.—Out of the net annual income of the Country Branch of the Charity, the Trustees may continue the money payments now made in the parishes of Llangwm Ucha, Llangeview, and Gwernesnoy, to such poor persons at present receiving such payments as are legal objects to charity; and, subject thereto, the same shall be divided between the said parishes in the same proportions as at present, that is to say:

9-20ths to Llangwm;
 9-20ths to Llangeview;
 2-20ths to Gwernesney;

and such proportions respectively shall be applied by the Trustees, at their discretion, either towards the promotion of the education of children of the labouring and industrial population of the said respective parishes (subject to the aforesaid provision of the Endowed Schools' Act, 1860), or to other charitable purposes for the benefit of the poor of the said parishes respectively, not being gratuitous gifts or doles of money, food or clothing.

AS TO THE ENTIRE CHARITY.

Sub-division of Income of any Branch.

52.—The proportions in which the income of any branch of the Charity is sub-divided, and the respective amount of the capitation fees in the School, and of the stipends, salaries and other payments in each branch may be varied by the order of the Charity Commissioners upon the application of the Trustees of the Charity.

Decision of Charity Commissioners, on being appealed to, to be final.

53.—If any doubt or question shall arise among the Trustees, or any of them, as to the construction or proper application of any of the provisions of this Scheme, or the management of the Charity, application shall be made by them, or any two of them, to the Charity Commissioners for their opinion and advice, which, when given, shall be conclusive on all parties affected thereby.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

PART I.

NO.	DESCRIPTION.	SITUATION OF PROPERTY.	A. R. P.
1	Grammar School } House & Garden } ..	Usk	
2	Writing School } House & Garden } ..	Usk	
3	Prescoed Farm.....	Llanbadoc.....	93 3 12
4	Skibbor Newydd.....	Raglan	41 1 21
5	Pandy Farm.....	Goytro	70 2 3
6	Lands	Shirenewton.....	9 2 33
7	Garden	Ditto	0 0 27
8	Common Enclosure....	Ditto	2 3 2
9	Pandy Wood	Goytro	49 0 12
10	Pandy Little Wood....	Ditto	4 3 7
11	Sober Lease Wood	Shirenewton.....	5 0 28
12	Prescoed Wood	Llanbadoc.....	7 3 39
Total.....A.			285 1 24

PART II.

1	Altavilla Farm.....	Llangwm Ucha, Llan- geview & Gwernesney	113 1 31
2	Hospital Lands	Llangeview	14 0 39
3	Ty-bach-y-lan.....	Llangwm Ucha	10 1 5
4	Tyr-y-ferm	Ditto	44 2 39
5	Lands and Barn	Wolvesnewton	27 3 37
6	Cefn Buchan Farm....	Llangwin Ucha	77 2 36
7	Cefn Buchan	Ditto	1 0 0
8	Lands	Llandenny	5 2 16
9	Tyr-ap-Ivor.....	Llangwin Ucha	20 2 33
10	Caldicot Farm	Caldicot	21 2 22
11	Ditto Inclosure	Ditto	
12	Coed-y-ferm Woods ..	Llangwm Ucha	51 1 37
13	Coed-y-garrow	Gwernesney	8 0 15
Total.....A.			396 3 30

PART III.—COUNTRY BRANCH.

1	Tyr-y-lay Farm	Llangwin Ucha	47 0 0
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Scaled by Order of the Board this 7th day of Nov. 1862.
H. M. VANE, SECRETARY.

CHARITY COMMISSION.

USK ALMSHOUSE SCHEME,

Sealed 25th March, 1891. 752-91.

In the matter of the Charity called or known as the Usk Almshouses (of the Foundation of an Unknown Donor), in the Parish of Usk, in the County of Monmouth; and

In the Matter of "The Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853 to 1887.

SCHEME.

1. ADMINISTRATION OF CHARITY.—From and after the day on which this Scheme is approved and established by an Order of the Charity Commissioners, the above-mentioned Charity and the endowments specified in the Schedule hereto, and all other endowments (if any) of the said Charity, shall be administered and managed by the body of Trustees herein-after constituted, subject to and in conformity with the provisions of this Scheme, under the title of The Usk Almshouses.

2. VESTING OF REAL ESTATE.—The freehold land and hereditaments comprised in this Scheme are hereby vested in "The Official Trustee of Charity Lands" for all the estate and interest of the Charity therein.

3. INVESTMENT OF CASH.—All sums of cash now or at any time belonging to the Charity, and not required for current expenditure, shall as soon as possible be invested, under the authority of a further Order of the Charity Commissioners, in Government Stocks or securities, in the name of "The Official Trustees of Charitable Funds."

TRUSTEES.

4. **TRUSTEES.**—The body of Trustees shall consist of nine competent persons, namely,

Two Ex-officio Trustees,

Four Representative Trustees, and

Three Coöptative Trustees.

5. **EX-OFFICIO TRUSTEES.**—The Ex-officio Trustees shall be—

The Vicar for the time being of the Parish of Usk; and

The Chairman for the time being of the Usk Local Board of Health.

6. **REPRESENTATIVE TRUSTEES.**—The Representative Trustees shall be appointed by election by the inhabitants of the Parish of Usk in Vestry assembled. Each appointment shall be made for a term of five years at a meeting convened and held according to the ordinary practice of the electing body, or in case of need or doubt in accordance with rules to be made or approved by the Charity Commissioners. The Chairman of the meeting shall forthwith cause the name of each person appointed to be notified to the Trustees or their Clerk or Secretary.

7. **FIRST REPRESENTATIVE TRUSTEES.**—The first Representative Trustees shall be appointed as soon as possible after the date hereof, and their names shall be notified to the Vicar of Usk, on behalf of the Trustees when constituted.

8. **CO-OPTATIVE TRUSTEES.**—The Coöptative Trustees shall be persons residing or carrying on business in or near the Parish of Usk, and shall be appointed for a term of eight years. Every Coöptative Trustee shall be provisionally appointed by a resolution of the Trustees to be passed at a special meeting, and to be forthwith notified by the Trustees to the Charity Commissioners with an application for their approval (which may be in the form No. 1 annexed hereto). A provisional appointment shall become valid only if and when the said Commissioners have certified their approval of it under their official seal, and shall date from that approval.

9. **FIRST CO-OPTATIVE TRUSTEES.**—The following persons shall be deemed to be appointed and are hereby

approved as the first Coöptative Trustees, viz.:—

James Henry Clark, of Bridge Street, Printer ;
Edwin Parry, of Old Market Street, Railway
Clerk ; and
Charles Voyce, of The Rosary, Gentleman, all
in the Parish of Usk.

10. DECLARATION BY TRUSTEES.—No person shall be entitled to act as a Trustee whether on his first or any subsequent appointment, until he has signed in the minute book of the Trustees a declaration that he accepts and is willing to act in the trusts of this Scheme.

11. DETERMINATION OF TRUSTEESHIP.—Any Coöptative Trustee who ceases to be qualified as aforesaid, and any Trustee who is adjudicated a bankrupt, or who refuses or is unfit, or is incapacitated to act, or who communicates in writing to the Trustees his wish to resign, and any Representative or Coöptative Trustee who is absent from all meetings of the Trustees during a period of two consecutive years, shall thereupon cease to be a Trustee.

12. VACANCIES.—Upon the occurrence of a vacancy the Trustees shall, at their next meeting, cause a note thereof to be entered in their minute book, and in the case of a vacancy in the office of Representative Trustee shall cause notice thereof to be given as soon as possible to the proper electing body. No vacancy in the office of Coöptative Trustee shall be filled till after the lapse of one calendar month from its occurrence. Any competent Trustee may be re-appointed.

MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF TRUSTEES.

13. MEETINGS OF TRUSTEES.—The Trustees shall hold general meetings at least twice in each year. A special meeting may at any time be summoned by any two Trustees who shall give seven days' notice to all the other Trustees of the matters to be discussed.

14. QUORUM.—There shall be a quorum when three Trustees are present at any meeting.

15. CHAIRMAN AND VOTING.—At every meeting the Trustees present shall appoint a Chairman. Every matter shall be determined by the majority of the Trustees present and voting on the question. The Chairman shall have a casting vote, whether or not he shall have previously voted on the same question, but no Trustee shall in any other circumstances give more than one vote.

16. **MINUTES AND ACCOUNTS.**—A minute book and books of account shall be provided and kept by the Trustees. All proper accounts in relation to the Charity shall in each year be made out and certified in such manner as shall be required by the Charity Commissioners, and copies thereof shall be transmitted to the said Commissioners, and published in conformity with the provisions of the Charitable Trusts Acts.

17. **GENERAL POWER TO MAKE REGULATIONS.**—Within the limits prescribed by this Scheme the Trustees shall have full power from time to time to make regulations for the management of the Charity, and for the conduct of their business, including the summoning of meetings, the deposit of money at a proper bank, the custody of documents, and the appointment as Clerk during their pleasure of one of themselves (without salary) or of some other fit person.

MANAGEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY.

18. **ALLOTMENTS EXTENSION ACT, 1882.**—The Trustees may set apart and let in allotments in the manner prescribed by and subject to the provisions of the Allotments Extension Act, 1882, any portions of the land belonging to the Charity other than buildings and the appurtenances of buildings.

19. **MANAGEMENT AND LETTING OF PROPERTY.**—Subject as aforesaid, all the property of the Charity not required to be retained or occupied for the purposes thereof shall be let and otherwise managed by the Trustees. In every case public notice of the intention to let any land or other property shall be given by the Trustees, in such manner as they shall consider most effectual for ensuring full publicity. The Trustees shall not create any tenancy in reversion, or for more than seven years certain, or for less than the improved annual value at rackrent, without the sanction of the Charity Commissioners or a competent Court.

20. **LEASES.**—The Trustees shall provide that on the grant by them of any lease, the Lessee shall execute a counterpart thereof, and every lease shall contain covenants on the part of the Lessee for the payment of rent, and the proper cultivation of the land, and all other usual and proper covenants applicable to the property comprised therein, and a proviso for re-entry on non-payment of the rent or non-performance of the covenants,

21. REPAIR AND INSURANCE.—The Trustees shall keep in repair and insure against fire all the buildings of the Charity not required to be kept in repair and insured by the Lessees or tenants thereof.

APPLICATION OF INCOME.

22. EXPENSES OF MANAGEMENT.—The cost of repairs and insurance and all other charges and outgoings payable in respect of the property of the Charity, and all other proper costs, charges, and expenses of and incidental to the administration and management of the Charity, shall be first defrayed by the Trustees out of the income thereof.

23. APPLICATION OF INCOME.—Subject to the payments aforesaid, the yearly income of the Charity shall be applied by the Trustees in the manner and to the objects herein-after prescribed.

24. ALLOWANCES TO PRESENT AND FUTURE ALMSPEOPLE.—The yearly income of the Charity shall at first be applied in making equal allowances to the present inmates of the Almshouses. No new appointment of an Almsperson shall be made by the Trustees until the present number of Almspersons shall have become reduced below six, when there shall be paid to each Almsperson out of the income of the Charity a weekly stipend of not less than 3s. 6d., and the Trustees, in lieu of paying the whole amount of the said stipend to any Almsperson in money, may from time to time expend the whole or any portion thereof for his or her benefit as they shall think fit.

25. LETTING AND OCCUPATION OF ALMSHOUSES.—The Trustees may let any of the Almshouses not required for occupation by Almspeople, and shall apply the rent to be derived from such letting in augmenting the stipends of the Almspeople. In the event of a sufficient endowment being hereafter provided, to admit of Almspeople being appointed to any of the Almshouses so let, the Trustees may resume possession of such Almshouses, and appoint duly qualified Almspeople thereto. Subject as aforesaid, the Almshouse Building belonging to the Charities and the property heretofore occupied therewith shall be appropriated and used for the residence of the Almspeople to be appointed from time to time by the Trustees, in conformity with the provisions of this Scheme.

26. NUMBER AND QUALIFICATIONS OF ALMSPEOPLE.—The Almspeople to be appointed in pursuance of this

Scheme who shall, subject to the provision of an endowment as indicated in the preceding clause, be limited to six, shall be poor persons of good character, who shall have resided in the Parish of Usk for not less than three years next preceding the time of their appointment, who shall not during that period, except in such special cases as may be allowed by the Charity Commissioners, have received Poor-law relief, and who from age, ill-health, accident, or infirmity, shall be unable to maintain themselves by their own exertions; with a preference for those persons who, being otherwise qualified as herein-mentioned, shall have become reduced by misfortune from better circumstances.

27. ABSENCE FROM ALMSHOUSE.—No Almsperson shall be absent from the Almshouse for a period exceeding twenty-four hours, without the consent in writing of the Trustees or their Clerk; but in special cases such consent may, for any sufficient reason, be given retrospectively after the absence has occurred.

28. ROOMS NOT TO BE LET.—No Almsperson shall be permitted to let or part with the possession of the room or rooms allotted to him or her, or to suffer any stranger to occupy the same, or any part thereof, except with the special permission of the Trustees.

29. APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT.—Applications for appointment as Almspeople shall be made to the Trustees, or to their Clerk, in writing, in such form as the Trustees shall prescribe.

30. NOTICE OF VACANCY.—No appointment of an Almsperson shall be made by the Trustees until a sufficient notice of the vacancy to be filled up, specifying the qualifications required from candidates (which may be in the Form (No. 2) annexed hereto), shall have been published in the parish of Usk, by advertisement or otherwise, so as to give due publicity to the intended appointment; and every applicant must be prepared with sufficient testimonials and other evidence of his or her qualification for the appointment.

31. APPOINTMENTS OF ALMSPERSON.—All appointments of Almspersons shall be made by the Trustees at a special meeting, and shall be made as soon as conveniently may be after an interval of one month from the occurrence of the vacancy to be filled up.

32. REGISTER.—The Trustees shall provide and keep a

book, in which shall be entered the names, ages, and descriptions of all persons appointed to be Almspersons, together with the dates of their respective appointments, and the date and occasion of every vacancy; and they shall likewise keep a register of all applications for appointment.

33. REMOVAL OF ALMSPERSON.—If any Almsperson shall be guilty of insobriety, insubordination, breach of regulations, or immoral or unbecoming conduct, or shall receive Poor Law relief, or shall, in the opinion of the Trustees, become disqualified from retaining his or her appointment, or if in any case it should appear that any Almsperson has been appointed without having the required qualifications, the Trustees, upon proof thereof to their satisfaction, may remove the Almsperson, and take possession of the tenement or room occupied by him or her, and may proceed to appoint another Almsperson in his or her place; or in any case of such misconduct as aforesaid, the Trustees may suspend the payment of the stipend to the Almsperson either wholly or in part during such time as they shall think fit.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

34. VARIATION OF PAYMENTS.—The amounts and conditions of the several payments and allowances which are prescribed by this Scheme may be varied from time to time by the Trustees, with the sanction of the Charity Commissioners.

35. APPROPRIATION OF BENEFITS.—The appropriation of the benefits of the Charity shall be made by the Trustees from time to time, in the exercise of their discretion, at meetings of their body, and not separately by any individual Trustee or Trustees.

36. NO TRUSTEE TO BE PAID, OR HOLD CHARITY LAND, OR SUPPLY WORK OR GOODS.—No Trustee acting in any capacity in respect of the Charity shall receive any salary or remuneration from the funds of the Charity. No Trustee shall, for his own benefit, or for the benefit of any other person, either directly or indirectly, hold or occupy any land or tenement belonging to the Charity, or be engaged in the supply of work or goods at the cost of the Charity.

37. QUESTIONS UNDER SCHEME.—Any question as to the construction of this Scheme, or as to the regularity or the

validity of any acts done or about to be done under this Scheme, shall be determined conclusively by the Charity Commissioners, upon such application made to them for the purpose as they think sufficient.

*Form (No. 1) of Application for the Approval of
Provisional Appointments of Trustees.*

To the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

In the matter of the Charity called The USK ALMS-
HOUSES, in the Parish of USK, in the County of
MONMOUTH, now regulated by a Scheme of the
Charity Commissioners of the 25th March, 1891.

The undersigned, being^o of the above-
mentioned Charity, submits the following statement :—

1. A vacancy in the office of Trustee occurred on the
day of 189 , by the
of†

2. At a special meeting of the Trustees duly held on
the day of 189 , at which there
were present :—

(in the chair),
it was resolved that § be provisionally
appointed to fill such vacancy.

3. Mr. has expressed in writing his
willingness to accept and act in the trusts of the Scheme.

4. In these circumstances the Trustees now apply to
the Charity Commissioners to approve such provisional
appointment under their official seal.

||
declare that the above statements are in
all respects true according to information and
belief.

Dated this day of 189 .

* The application may be made by the Chairman of the meeting, or
by their Clerk, on behalf of the Trustees.

† State cause of vacancy

‡ State full name, address, and description of Trustee who vacates
his office.

§ State full name, address, and description of proposed new Trustee.

|| The applicant or applicants should here sign their names, adding
the capacity in which they make the application.

Form (No. 2) of Notice.

In the matter of the Charity called The USK ALMSHOUSES.

The Trustees of this Charity give notice that they will, on the day of 18, proceed to elect an Almsperson, to fill a vacancy in the number of Almspersons of the Charity. The election will take place at o'clock on that day, at . Poor persons of good character who have been resident in the Parish of Usk for three years at least, who shall not during that period have received Poor Law relief, and who from age, ill-health, accident, or infirmity are unable to maintain themselves by their own exertions, are eligible for the appointment, those persons who have become reduced by misfortune from better circumstances being entitled to a preference.

Application for the appointment must be made in writing to the Trustees or their Clerk at , fourteen days at least previously to the Election. Every applicant must state his or her name, address, age, and occupation, and must be prepared with sufficient testimonials and other evidence of his or her qualification for the appointment.

Signed

Clerk to the Trustees.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY.

Description.	Extent or Amount.			Tenant or Persons in whose Name invested.	Gross Yearly Income.
	A.	E.	P.		
Almshouses in Usk .. ..	....			In hand .. ..	....
Land in Llangoven	23	1	13	Mrs. Powell. (Yearly Ten.)	17 0 0
Land in Llangeview	4	0	0	Oliver Jenkins (Yearly Ten.)	10 0 0
One-third of the Income of the Charity of Hannah Barnard Davies, appropriated by a Scheme made by the Chancery Division of the High Court, and dated the 2nd March, 1891.	....			.....	38 10 0 or thereabouts

Sealed by Order of the Board this 25th day of March, 1891.

G. H. GAUNTLET.

L.S.

Authorised under 50 & 51 Vict. c. 49, sec. 3.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.
(CHANCERY DIVISION.)

Mr. JUSTICE STIRLING at Chambers. MONDAY, the 2nd
day of MARCH, 1891.

*In the matter of the Estate of HANNAH BARNARD
DAVIES, deceased, between Ellen Waddington,
Widow, Plaintiff, and Her Majesty's Attorney-
General, Defendant.*

UPON THE APPLICATION of the Defendant, and upon hearing the Solicitors for the Applicant, and upon reading letters of administration with the will annexed to the estate of Hannah Barnard Davies granted to Ellen Waddington, the order dated the 5th December, 1887, the residuary account Reg. A. D. 1884 fo. 1331, with receipt for duty dated the 30th July, 1888, and the certificate of the fund—

AND THE JUDGE BEING OF OPINION that the Scheme set forth in the First Schedule hereto is a proper Scheme for the application of the share of residue bequeathed by the above-named testatrix, Hannah Barnard Davies, amongst the poor of the parish of Usk, in the county of Monmouth, or in aid of the Schools therein, DOTH ORDER that the said Scheme be carried into effect.

And, It is ordered that it be referred to the taxing master to tax as between Solicitor and Client the costs of the Defendant of incidental to and consequent upon this application.

And, It is ordered that the funds in Court be dealt with as directed in the schedule hereto.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

SCHEME for the application of the Residuary Personal Estate bequeathed by the Will dated 7th April, 1873, of Hannah Barnard Davies.

1. The funds in Court to the credit of this action, "The Charity Fund Account," or so much thereof as may remain after payment of all costs, charges, and expenses which may be directed to be paid thereout, shall be

transferred under the authority of an order of the Court into the names of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds in trust for the Charity.

2. The income of the funds transferred to the Official Trustees for the purpose of the Charity shall be paid by the Official Trustees as to two equal third parts thereof to the Governors for the time being of the Usk Grammar School Foundation or the Treasurer or other proper Officer named for the purpose by them, and as to the remaining one equal third part thereof to the Trustees for the time being of the Charity called or known as "The Usk Almshouses" (the donor of which is unknown), in Usk aforesaid, or the Treasurer or other proper Officer named for the purpose by them, and shall be applied by the governing body for the time being of the aforesaid foundation and by the said Trustees for the time being of the Usk Almshouses for the purpose of this Scheme. Any unapplied surplus shall be accumulated by the investment thereof in the purchase of Government stock in the names of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds and all such investments shall be deemed to be part of the fund applicable for the purposes of the Charity.

APPLICATION OF INCOME.

3. All the proper costs, charges, and expenses of and incidental to the administration and management of this Charity shall be first defrayed by the said Governing Body and the Trustees of the Usk Almshouses out of the income thereof. Subject to the payments aforesaid, all the yearly income of the Charity shall be applied by the Governing Body and Trustees aforesaid in the manner and to the objects hereinafter prescribed (that is to say)

4. The Governing Body shall apply one equal third part of the net yearly income of the Charity for or towards the support of any Schools or School for the education of children of the labouring and industrial population of the parish of Usk aforesaid, including the hamlet of Gwehelog within such parish, subject to the provisions of the Endowed Schools Act, 1860, for securing the admission of children of all religious denominations to the benefit of such Schools.

The Governing Body shall apply one other equal third part of the yearly income of this Charity for the educational purposes of the Scheme for the administration of

the Usk Branch of Roger Edwards' Charity, approved by Her Majesty in Council on the 27th November, 1878. The Trustees for the time being of the Usk Almshouses shall apply the remaining one equal third part of the net yearly income of this Charity for the purposes of the Scheme for the administration of "The Usk Almshouses" Charity, prepared by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

5. The Governing Body and Trustees aforesaid shall cause this Scheme to be printed, and a copy given to every Governor and Trustee upon his appointment, and copies may be sold at a reasonable rate to all persons applying for the same.

6. A copy of this Scheme shall be kept with the books of account and other documents belonging to the Charity, and every parishioner and other person interested in the Charity shall be at liberty to take copies of the Scheme or any part thereof, upon making application for that purpose to the Governing Body, or their Clerk, at such reasonable times and subject to such reasonable conditions as may be fixed and prescribed by them.

7. The Scheme shall come into operation on the day on which it is approved and established by an order of the Court authorizing the transfer of the funds applicable for the purpose of the Charity to the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.



PAYMENT SCHEDULE.

In the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division).

2nd March, 1891.

Re Hannah Barnard Davies, deceased. Waddington v. Her Majesty's Attorney General.

1885. D. 177.

LEDGER CREDIT.—The said Action. "The Charity Fund Account."

FUNDS IN COURT—4497*l*. New Consols.

Particulars of Payments, Transfers, or other operations ordered.	Payees and Transferees or Separate Accounts.	Amounts.			
		Money.		Securities.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
<p>SELL sufficient Consols to raise with any Interest Costs to be taxed under this Order.</p> <p>Out of Proceeds and Interest :</p> <p>PAY Costs.</p> <p>TRANSFER Residue of New Consols</p>	<p>The Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.</p>				

USK ALMSHOUSE SCHEME.

Poll for Four Representative Trustees.

May 20th 1891.

1. Watkins, T. Solicitor. 2. Parker, J., Gentleman.
3. Carbonell, Eleanor. 4. Watkins, M. J., Solicitor.
5. Jennings, F., Carrier. 6. Edwards, J. J., Grocer.
7. Nicholas, J. O., Painter. 8. T. J. Smith, Draper.

Those persons whose names have an * attached
did not vote.

Figure between parenthesis denotes number of votes.

Addis, Henry A, solicitor's clerk	...	...	1—2—4—7
Aish, Frank, publican	...	...	*
Baker, Rev. S. C. Vicar	...	...	1—2—3—4
Bayton, Elizabeth	...	...	1—2—3—4
Blakemore, James, carpenter	...	...	5—6—7—8
Birrell, J., Hendrew farm	...	...	*
Birt, C. labourer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Boulton, Donald, surgeon	...	...	1—2—3—4
Brown, Edwin, labourer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Buckley, John, tailor	...	...	*
Bunning, William, from home	...	...	*
Burns, Michael, labourer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Burton, — prison warder	...	...	5—6—7—8
Caldwell, James, labourer	absent	...	*
Carbonell, Eleanor (2)	...	...	1—2—3—4
Carey, Jane, laundress	...	...	5—6—7—8
Charles, John, tailor	...	...	1—2—3—4
Charles, William, labourer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Clark, J. H., publisher	...	...	1—2—3—4
Clift, Geo., gardener	...	...	3
Colman, R., innkeeper	...	...	*
Coleman, Patrick, labourer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Conservative Club	...	...	*
Coney, John, labourer	...	...	1—2—3—4
Constance, Peter, turner	...	...	5—6—7—8
Cording, James, labourer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Cozens, Thomas, baker	...	...	1—2—3—4
Cowles, John, New Barn farm	...	...	*
Croft, Rev. Thos, Roman Catholic Priest			4

Davies, Harry, painter	...	...	1—2—3—4
Davies, James, painter	...	...	1—2—3—4
Davies, George, woodcutter	...	...	5—6—7—8
Davies, Martha (absent from home)			*
Davies, Mary, Castle street	...	...	5—6—7—8
Davies, Mary, Church street	...	...	5—6—7—8
Davies, Mary (Roy) laundress	...	...	*
Davies, Sarah, Porthycarne street	...	...	1—2—3—4
Davies, William, cooper	...	...	5—6—7—8
Davies, William, builder, Woodbine	...	...	1—2—3—4
Daw, Denias, Independent minister	...	...	5—6—7—8
Day, Thomas, coal merchant	...	...	5—6—7—8
Dixon, Edmund, butcher	...	...	5—6—7—8
Doubleday, C N, fishmonger	...	...	*
Douglas, Alexander, prison clerk	...	...	1—2—3—4
Dunbar, police constable	...	...	*
Dunn, Jane Nichols, the Willows	...	...	1—2—3—4
Dunning, Henry, photographer	...	...	*
Edwards, M, postmistress	...	...	1—2—3—4
Edwards, Elizabeth, draper	...	...	5—6—7—8
Edwards John James, grocer...	...	...	5—6—7—8
Edwards, Martin, solicitor, from home			*
Edmunds, George, butcher, from home			*
Ethridge, William disallowed			*
Evans, George, haycutter	...	...	*
Evans, Hannah, Twyn	...	...	5—6—7—8
Evans, Richard, haulier	...	...	5—6—7—8
Fleming, Caroline, Castle square, unwell			*
Flynn, Hannah, Maryport street	...	...	*
Fricker, Jonathan, nurseryman	...	...	1—2—3—4
Fuller, Alfred, chairmaker	...	...	5—6—7—8
Gas Company	...	...	*
Gilbert, Thomas, publican	...	...	5—6—7—8
Gould, John, Pontsampit	...	...	5—6—7—8
Green, Mrs., charwoman	...	...	*
Greening, D., prison warder	...	...	1—2—3—7
Griffin, H. C., Bridge street	...	...	1—2—3—4
Griffin, Amelia, Tanyard	...	...	1—2—3—4
Griffiths, Alfred, labourer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Griffiths, James, haulier	...	...	*
Griffiths, William, ostler	...	...	1—2—3—4

Griffiths, John, labourer	...	...	5-6-7-8
Groves, Martha, Maryport street	...	...	*
Gunter, Philip, sexton	...	...	1-2-3-4
Gustard, H. S., solicitor (5)	...	...	1-2-3-4
Great Western Railway	...	...	*
Hales, — baker...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Haggett, John, butcher	...	...	1-2-5-8
Harley, Jane, charwoman	...	...	3
Harris, F. G., land agent	...	...	1-2-3-4
Hawkins, Evan, labourer	...	...	5-6-7-8
Hennessey, John, saddler	...	...	*
Herbert, Richard, grocer	...	...	1-2-3-4
Herbert, Mrs., Twyn	...	...	5-6-7-8
Highway Board	...	...	*
Hiley, S. A., Porthycarne street (2)	...	...	5-6-7-8
Hobbs, William, grocer	...	...	2-3-5-8
Hobbs, A., grocer	...	...	*
Hopkins, Elizabeth, sempstress	...	...	5-6-7-8
Hullett, Mary, Black barn	...	...	1-2-3-4
Humphreys, H., gentleman	...	...	1-2-3-4
Hutchings, David, painter	...	...	5-6-7-8
James, Isaac, labourer	...	...	5-6-7-8
Jenkins Oliver, assistant overseer (3)	...	...	5-6-7-8
Jennings, Frank, railway carrier	...	...	5-6-7-8
Jennings, William, prison warder	...	...	5-6-7-8
Jerroms, William, relieving officer	...	...	1-2-4-7
Johnson, Frank, Baptist minister	...	...	5-6-7-8
Jones, Alexander, carpenter	...	...	*
Jones, Bessie, dressmaker	...	...	*
Jones, Emma, Old Market street	...	...	5-6-7-8
Jones, Edward, grocer...	...	...	*
Jones, James, cabinet maker	...	...	5-6-7-8
Jones, James, mason	...	...	5-6-7-8
Jones, John, Black barn	...	...	*
Jones, John, Vine tree...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Jones, Fred, spirit stores	...	...	*
Jones, Eliza, Tanyard	...	...	1-2-3-4
Jones, Philip, labourer...	...	...	*
Jones, Richard, smith	...	...	2-3-5-6
Jones, William, labourer	...	...	5-6-7-8
Jones, William, mason...	...	...	5-6-7-8

Jones, William, groom...	...	...	3—5—6—7
Jones, William, shoemaker	...	...	5—6—7—8
Keats, Deborah, Castle street	...	...	1—2—3—4
Keefe, — Black barn	...	...	*
Kelly, H., Sergt.-instructor	..	...	*
Knight, James, turner	...	...	5—6—7—8
Knight, Thomas, turner, Pontsampit...	...	...	5—6—7—8
Lamotte, L., gentleman (2)	...	...	1—2—3—4
Lake, James, hoopshaver	absent	...	*
Lanman, John	...	...	5—6—7—8
Lawrence, Emmeline, Ty Brith	...	...	*
Lewis, Ann, milkwoman	...	...	1—2—3—4
Lewis, Alfred, chemist...	...	...	*
Lewis, George, prison warder...	...	...	5—6—7—8
Lewis, Hester, by Town Hall	...	...	5—6—7—8
Lewis, Henry, timber merchant	...	...	5—6—7—8
Lewis, John, innkeeper	...	...	1—5
Lewis, John, carpenter...	...	...	5—6—7—8
Lewis, Mary, Old Market street	...	...	*
Lewis, William, labourer	...	...	*
Lodge, Eliza	...	...	*
London and Provincial Bank	...	...	*
Lucas, Arthur, clerk	...	...	*
Lucas, Catherine	...	...	*
Lucas, Leslie, plasterer	...	...	1—2—3—4
Lucas, Richard, plasterer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Lusty, George, ex-policeman	...	...	5—6—7—8
Lyne, Charles, fishery	...	...	*
Madley, Jesse, bandmaster	...	...	*
Mason, Mrs., Maryport street	...	...	*
Mayberry, William, iunkeeper	...	...	*
Macarthy, Daniel, labourer	...	...	*
Macarthy, Honora	...	...	1—2—3—4
McDonnell, Colonel (3)	...	...	1—2—3—4
Mead, William, carpenter	...	...	*
Meredith, John, stationmaster	...	...	*
Merrett, Florence, organist	...	...	1—2—3—4
Messer, Ann, Vine Cottage	...	...	1—2—3—4
Midway, — Walcheren	...	...	5—6—7—8
Miller, C. L., tailor	...	...	*
Miller, Alice, Old Vicarage	...	...	1—2—5—7

Mitchell, Ann, charwoman	...	...	5-6-7-8
Morgan, Alfred, works at Woodbine	...	...	1-2-3-4
Morgan, Ann, Church street	...	...	1-2-3-4
Morgan, Edward, haulier	...	...	5-6-7-8
Morgan, Elizabeth, Maryport street	...	...	1-2-3-4
Morgan, Henry, Old Market street	...	...	1-2-3-4
Morgan, — insurance agent	...	...	*
Morgan, Harriet, Twyn	...	...	*
Morgan, Mary Ann, innkeeper	...	...	*
Morgan, Mary, Old Market street	...	...	5-6-7-8
Morgan, Mary, sempstress	...	...	*
Morgan Philip, bailiff	...	...	1-2-3-4
Morgan, Reuben, shoe shop	...	...	5-6-7-8
Morgan, Sarah, milliner	...	...	*
Morgan, Thomas, innkeeper	...	...	5-6-7-8
Morgan, Richard, Church street	...	...	1-2-3-4
Morgan, Richard, shoemaker	...	...	*
Morgan, William, Twyn, labourer	...	...	5-6-7-8
Morgan, William, shoemaker	...	...	5-6-7-8
Morley, John, clerk	...	...	5-6-7-8
Morris, Rev. H.	...	...	1-2-3-4
Mortimer, Charles, prison warden	...	...	1-2-7-8
Mortimer, C. A., clerk	...	...	1-2-3-4
Mostyn, C., solicitor	...	...	1-2-3-4
Mullet, John, gardener	...	...	5-6-7-8
Mundy, George, coal merchant (3)	...	...	1-2-3-4
Murray, Dennis, labourer	...	...	2-4-5-7
Murray, Margaret, Church street	...	...	5-6-7-8
Newton, — Baron street	...	...	*
Nicholl, William, carter	...	...	3-5-6-8
Nicholls, E. A., shoe shop	...	...	5-6-7-8
Nicholas, J. O., painter	...	...	5-6-7-8
Nicholas, James, carpenter	...	...	5-6-7-8
Nixon, J. R., schoolmaster	...	...	*
Paine, James, shoemaker	...	...	5-6-7-8
Pardoe, James, labourer	...	...	5-6-7-8
Parker, Mrs. Adolphus, from home	...	...	*
Parker, James, gentleman	...	...	1-2-3-4
Parker, J., labourer	...	...	5-6-7-8
Parry, Edwin, railway clerk	...	...	5-6-7-8
Parsons, Mary, needlowoman	...	...	*

Paske, Caroline ill	...	...	...	#
Perkins, William, labourer	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Pewtner, Henry, plasterer	...	...	...	0
Phillips, Rachel, Bridge street	...	...	...	1-2-3-4
Phillips, Ann, Lower mill	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Pitt, John, butcher	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Pitt, Ann, innkeeper	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Police Station	...	...	...	0
Powell, William bedridden	...	...	...	*
Preece, Thomas, labourer	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Preece, Robert, Old Market street	...	...	...	3-4-6-8
Priestley, J. H., Grammar School	...	...	...	1-2-3-4
Price, George, steam thrasher...	...	...	...	1-2-5
Price, James, labourer	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Price, Jane, Baron street	...	...	...	*
Price, Tom, labourer	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Price, Thomas, carpenter	...	...	...	3-5-6-8
Prichard, Hannah, Three Salmon's (3)	...	...	...	1-2-3-4
Probert Richard, blacksmith	...	...	...	1-2-3-4
Prothero, David, prison warder	...	...	...	0
Rapson, Fred, sweep	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Radford, Amy, innkeeper	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Raymond, Harriet, charwoman	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Rees, Thomas, senr., solicitor's clerk...	...	...	...	4-5-7-8
Rees, Thomas, junr., clerk	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Rees, David, railway porter	...	...	...	*
Rickards, Robert, Priory (4)	...	...	...	1-2-3-4
Rivers, Arthur, wine & spirit merchant	...	...	...	1-2-4-5
Roberts, Susan, grocer	...	...	...	1-2-3-4
Roberts, Rachel, Maryport street	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Roberts, David, labourer	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Roberts, John, gentleman	...	...	...	1-2-3-4
Robertson, Thomas, innkeeper	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Rogers, R. A., plasterer	...	...	...	3-4-5-6
Rosser, John, labourer...	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Salton, W., watchmaker	...	...	...	*
Sales, Mary Ann, charwoman...	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Sansom, William, coachman	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Savory, Thomas, turner	...	...	...	5-6-7-8
Shepard, A. J., surgeon	...	...	...	1-2-3-8
Shepardson, Stephen, roadman	...	...	...	5-6-7-8

Smith, George, postman	...	...	1—2—5—6
Smith, Sidney, veterinary surgeon	...	...	1—2—3—6
Smith, James, carpenter	...	...	1—2—3—4
Smith, Thomas J., draper	...	...	5—6—7—8
Smith, David, labourer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Smith, Fanny, Lower mill	...	...	*
Smith, Charles, Mill street, labourer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Smyth, Colonel, Castle Vale	...	...	1—2—3—4
Spear, — works at Woodbine	...	...	*
Spencer, E. J. & W., Graigolway	...	...	1—2—3—4
Stephens, Eliza, Brook Cottage	...	...	1—2—3—4
Stibbs, William, baker	...	...	5—6—7—8
Stockham, Beeston, Alinshouses	...	...	5—6—7—8
Stockham, B., F., carpenter	...	...	5—6—7—8
Stockham, Fred, painter	...	...	*
Stockham, Henry, shoemaker	...	...	*
Stone, Enoch, Mortimer	...	...	*
Sullivan, Michael, railway labourer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Symonds, James, gardener	...	...	5—6—7—8
Taylor, Jane, Monmouthshire House	...	...	1—2—3—4
Taylor, Benson, innkeeper	...	...	*
Thomas, Cecilia, general dealer	...	...	*
Thomas, Edgar, butcher	...	...	3—4—5—6
Thomas, George, Independent minister	...	...	5—6—7—8
Thomas, George, prison warder	...	...	5—6—7—8
Thomas, Rees, gentleman, Victoria Villa	...	...	1—2—3—7
Thomas, Samuel, coachman	...	...	1—2—3—4
Thomas, William, tailor, Bridge street	...	...	5—6—7—8
Thomas, William, junr., plasterer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Thomas, William, junr., quartermaster	...	...	*
Thomas, William, senr., plasterer	...	...	1—2—3—4
Tyrrell, Thomas, greengrocer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Town Hall	...	...	*
Turlon, Samuel, hoopshaver	...	...	5—6—7—8
Trahearne James, general dealer	...	...	5—6—7—8
Voyce, Charles, gentleman	...	...	1—2—3—4
Wall, Frederick, by Town Hall	...	...	5—6—7—8
Wallis, Lizzie, Worcester Cottage	...	...	1—2—3—4
Waters, Edward Walter, innkeeper (3)	...	...	1—2—3—4
Waters, John, horsebreaker	...	...	1—2—3—4
Waters, James	...	...	*

Walters, Thomas, barber	...	...	*
Walters, Zachariah, mason	...	...	5-6-7-8
Watkins, Eleanor, High School	...	...	1-2-3-4
Watkins, Isabel, High School...	...	...	1-2-3-4
Watkins, James, gardener	...	...	1-2-3-4
Watkins, J. Maitland, solicitor	...	...	1-2-3-4
Watkins, Thomas, solicitor	...	...	1-2-3-4
Watkins, William, postman	...	...	*
Weare, William, saddler	...	...	*
Webb, — Walcheren	...	...	*
Webb, — Black Barn	...	...	*
Webber, Ellen, Walcheren	...	...	1-2-3-4
West, Albert, gardener	...	...	*
Wheeler, James, chairmaker	...	...	5-6-7-8
Wheeler, Ephraim, chairmaker	...	...	1-5-6-8
Wheeler, Amos...	...	...	5-6-7-8
White, W. R., printer	...	...	*
Whitehead, Sergt.-major	...	...	*
Whitton, Arthur, clerk	...	...	1-2-3-4
Whitton, Joseph, painter	...	...	2-5-6-7
Willets, Llewellyn, labourer	...	...	5-6-7-8
Williams, Ann, washerwoman	...	...	1-2-3-4
Williams, Abraham	...	...	5-6-7-8
Williams, Abraham, junr.,	...	...	5-6-7-8
Williams, Albert, carpenter	ill	...	*
Williams, Fanny Elizabeth, innkeeper		...	*
Williams, George, barber	...	...	5-6-7-8
Williams, Howard, carpenter	...	...	5-6-7-8
Williams, Margaret, dressmaker	...	...	5-6-7-8
Williams, Eliza, dressmaker	...	...	*
Williams, Thomas, river keeper	...	...	1-2-3-4
Williams, Thomas, labourer	...	...	3
Williams, William, blacksmith	...	...	5-6-7-8
Willson, George, prison warder	...	...	2-5-7-8
Winter, John, hurdle maker	...	...	1-2-3-4
Winter, J. Vincent, helvemaker	...	...	1-2-3-4
Wise, William, carter	...	...	*
Workman, W., coal merchant (2)	...	...	5-6-7-8
Worth, Abel, prison warder	...	...	5-6-7-8
Wysome, John, innkeeper	...	...	2-5

HISTORICAL
SKETCHES OF MONMOUTHSHIRE,
ANCIENT MANSIONS,
AND THE
Magnificent Ruins
OF
RAGLAN CASTLE.



COMPILED BY
J. H. CLARK.



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Historical Sketches of MONMOUTHSHIRE.



MONMOUTH.



LORD NELSON'S Visit.

IT has been my happiness to share in **THREE** days of **PUBLIC TRIUMPH** at Monmouth; but, I am induced to believe, many years will pass away, before I shall again witness such scenes of general joy. The **FIRST** was on Monday, the 19th of August, 1799, on the

Presentation of Colours to the new-raised corps of Volunteer Infantry, in that town, by her Grace the Duchess of Beaufort.

The SECOND was on Thursday, the 24th of June, 1801, on the opening of the Kymin Naval Temple.

And the THIRD, on Thursday, August 19, 1802, when a Public Breakfast at the Kymin, and a Public Dinner at the Beaufort Arms, were given by the Corporation, to

THE HERO OF THE NILE,

And his friends, on their making a visit to Monmouth.

What indeed, could be more honourable to our national feelings, or more strongly evince our love for the glorious land we live in, than to witness, on the threat of invasion by a foreign foe, all classes, (even the highest), forgetting the distinctions of society, and joining the hostile ranks, to repel the vaunting boast of the enemy ; cloathing, as well as accoutring, themselves, at their own expence, and learning the use of arms, with a zeal and promptitude that spoke their sincerity in the cause they had undertaken to defend.

“ Britain,” said Lord Melville, “ to be an independent nation, should be a warlike nation ;” and we may venture to predict, from the zeal which has been shewn by her brave Volunteers, that the issue of the contest would only serve to expose the folly of the attempt of an hoard of slaves, however numerous, at reducing to obedience the inhabitants of a country, who had sworn, on its altars, to live free or die.

Not less interesting was the meeting at the opening of the Naval Temple, which might be

deemed a tribute of gratitude for the exertions of the British Navy, whose daring chiefs had so fully shewn, by their actions, that all endeavours to dispute with them the Empire of the Seas, only exposed their enemies to the contempt of the world, and eventually drew down the vengeance of an insulted and free-born people on their devoted heads. I HATE THE FRENCH! (was the expression of the Hero of the Nile, when at Monmouth, to Mr. Hardwick), and the account, which I am now going to detail, will serve to confirm, if it were wanting, his ardent love for that country, in whose defence he so greatly acted, and so gloriously closed his life.

Monmouth was not wholly unknown to Lord Nelson previous to this visit, neither had its inhabitants been unmindful of his meritorious public services; for, following the example of other places, the Corporation had presented his Lordship with the Freedom of their ancient Borough,* which was delivered by the Recorder, the Right Hon. Charles Bragge Bathurst, of Lidney Park, and M.P. for Bristol; nor did the Hero think slightly of the respect shewn to him, as the following Letter, addressed to Thomas Hollings, esq. then Mayor, will best express:

Merton, July 9th, 1801.

SIR,

When Mr. Bragge presented me with the Freedom of your ancient and respectable Borough,

* The Freedom was printed by me, on *White Satin* in allusion to the Flag under which his Lordship then ranked, which was afterwards tastefully embroidered, with oak and laurel leaves. The same mark of respect was also shewn to *Earl St. Vincent*, accompanied with this Account of the *Kymin Pavilion* and *Naval Temple*.

I expressed myself to him in the manner I was best able, to mark my gratitude for the great honour you had conferred upon me, which I trust Mr. Bragge communicated to you, but I think I ought to thank you myself for your kindness towards me.

I must therefore request the favour of you to express to the Corporation the sense I entertain of their kindness, and that it will never be forgotten,
by

SIR,

Your and their most obliged Servant,

NELSON & BRONTE.

T. Hollings, esq.

In the early part of the summer of 1802, his Lordship, accompanied by his brother and sister, the present Earl and Countess Merton; their son, the late Viscount Trafalgar [then a fine boy, about 14 years of age] with Sir William and Lady Hamilton, set out from London, on a party of pleasure, to South Wales, to visit (as it was mentioned), some estates in Pembrokeshire, belonging to Sir William, which he had not seen for many years.

At Oxford, the party were received by the Senate of the University, who were pleased to confer the degree of DOCTOR IN DIVINITY, on his Lordship's brother, and afterwards to accompany the visitors to every place of public resort in that venerable seat of Literature. From Oxford they proceeded to Gloucester, and from thence to Ross, where they arrived on the evening of Saturday, and were shewn the monument of the MAN OF ROSS in that church, as also the beautiful walks and pleasure grounds, now the property of Mr. William Hooper, of that town. On Sunday the party proceeded down the Wye from thence to Monmouth, which was the origin of the interesting public day intended to be here noticed.

Soon as it was known that the visitors were descending the river to this town, a meeting of the Corporation was convened, for the purpose of receiving his Lordship and friends with that respect due to their rank in life. The band of the county militia being then stationed here, they preceded the Corporation, who went in procession, dressed in their formalities, attended by their officers, to Wye bridge to receive them ; about four o'clock in the afternoon, the firing of the cannons at the Kymin announced the approach of the party, and when the pleasure-boat came in sight of the town at Hadnock reach, the band struck up *SEE THE CONQUERING HERO COMES*,—whose sounds were rapturously joined in by the loud and heart-cheering huzzas of the people, who had lined the banks of the river for near two miles, to behold this great and darling Son of the Ocean.

Lord Nelson, on this salute, immediately left his seat in the boat, advanced to the bow ; and, taking off his hat, there stood, and remained uncovered, till he reached the town. On his Lordship and the party's landing, the Corporation welcomed them to the birth-place of King Henry the Fifth, when the band struck up the martial air of *RULE BRITANNIA* ; and after the exchange of civilities, they walked, preceded by the music, to the Beaufort Arms Inn. Lord Nelson was very sensibly affected with this unlooked for tribute of respect, and observed to the magistracy, how much he felt indebted to them for this mark of attention. Had I, says his Lordship, arrived at any of the great seaport towns in the kingdom, I should not have been much surprised at this token of attachment from my Jolly Jack Tars, but to be known AT SUCH A LITTLE OUT OF A RIVER AS THE WYE, FILLS ME WITH ASTONISHMENT. In reply to which, it may be said with truth, his glorious deeds had made his

6 LORD NELSON'S SECOND VISIT TO MONMOUTH.

name both known and respected, in every part of the civilized world.

After dinner, his Lordship paid a visit to Mr. Hollings, the Mayor, and Mr. Hardwick ; with each of whom he drank a few glasses of wine, and expressed his acknowledgments to those gentlemen, for the marked attentions shewn to himself and friends by the Magistracy of the borough. His Lordship was invited to remain in town the next day, to visit the KYMIN, and to honour the Corporation with his company at dinner, at their expence, at the Beaufort Arms Inn. To this request he politely observed, that his party could not conveniently then accept of their kind solicitation ; but if, on their return, time would permit, they would very cheerfully avail themselves of the promised pleasure, so disinterestedly held forth to them at Monmouth, and of which they would, by letter, give Mr. Hollings three days notice previous to their arrival.

It is not the writer's intention to follow his Lordship further on his tour towards South Wales,—where all classes of people must have felt an equal portion of joy at his presence among them, as was expressed by the inhabitants of this town,—but to confine himself to the RETURN of the party to MONMOUTH, and the public festivity which took place, in honour of that day.

LORD NELSON'S SECOND VISIT.

A GREEABLE to the promise made by Lord Nelson to the Corporation, his Lordship addressed the following Letter to the Mayor, announcing the intention of himself and friends to accept the honour of their former invitation, to a public dinner, at Monmouth :

St. Clairs, August 14, 1802.

SIR,

You and several Gentlemen of the Corporation wishing to know a few days previous to my return through Monmouth, I now beg leave to tell you, that I shall be at Monmouth with our party on Wednesday next the 18th, in the evening, and remain at Monmouth on Thursday, to accept the honour of the polite invitation we have received. I am, Sir, with much respect, your obliged friend,

NELSON & BRONTE.

T. Hollings, esq.

They arrived again, at the Beaufort Arms Inn, Monmouth, on Wednesday, the 18th of August; and, at nine o'clock on Thursday morning, his Lordship and friends set out, in two coaches, to visit the New Naval Temple, and partake of a public breakfast at the Kymin Pavilion, prepared on the occasion. The party were received by the Corporation; and after the repast was concluded, they proceeded to view the beauties of this enchanting spot. His Lordship, in walking round the temple, paid particular attention to every part of it.—He surveyed the painting of his great exploit, the BATTLE OF THE NILE, for some time, as well as the name of the different Commanders, many of whom had been companions in his splendid achievements. He made the highest compliments to Mr. Hardwick,—observing, “It was not only “one of the most beautiful places he had ever “seen, but, to the boast of Monmouth, the “Temple was the only Monument of the kind “erected to the English Navy, in the whole “range of the kingdom.” He further added, “The nation has been engaged, for some time, “in collecting money, in order to erect, by public “subscriptions, a magnificent structure of this “kind, without accomplishing its purpose.—This “at the Kymin is enough; and for which the

8 LORD NELSON AND PARTY AT MONMOUTH.

"Admirals, whose services are here recorded, ARE
"VERY MUCH OBLIGED TO YOU."

As his Lordship proceeded round the Temple, I felt a desire to witness the manner of his viewing the painting of his glorious victory, as well as the sensations it might create in his mind: for which purpose I took my station near him.—On his Lordship's arrival at this part of the building, he surveyed, with an opera glass, which he held in his hand, this representation of his fame WITHOUT THE LEAST EMOTION, as though it had been accomplished by another officer, and after pausing on it for some minutes, directed his attention to different objects around him.

About two o'clock, his Lordship and friends left the Pavilion, and returned into town on foot, to gratify the solicitude of the numerous spectators, assembled to pay their respects to such distinguished visitors.

THE DINNER

AT THE BEAUFORT ARMS INN.

A sumptuous entertainment having been provided at the above house, for which a fine buck (selected with great care from the park at Badminton), was presented by his Grace the Duke of Beaufort,—at four o'clock dinner was announced to the company. Lord Nelson and his friends entered the room, and were conducted to their seats by the members of the Corporation,—the Hon. John and Lady Charlotte Lindsay (then residing in Monmouth), Sir W. Hamilton, Doctor and Mrs. Nelson, being seated on the right,—Lady Hamilton and Lord Nelson on the left hand of the Mayor, who presided; Mr. Thomas Phillips, Town Clerk, conducting the honours of the lower part of the table. His Lordship was dressed in a blue frock, having

gold epaulets,—decorated with the Orders of the Bath,^o the Crescent, and St. Joachim, black silk waistcoat, breeches, and stockings,—and appeared in excellent spirits after his excursion to the Pavilion.

After the cloth had been removed, and the health of our gracious Sovereign, with that of the other branches of the Royal Family, were remembered in our glasses, Mr. Hollings gave, as a toast from the Chair,

“THE HEALTH OF LORD NELSON,
“*With thanks to his Lordship for his most important
Public Services.*”

Soon as the TOAST was drank, and the company were seated, his Lordship rose up, and in the most dignified and eloquent manner, (worthy of the HERO of the NILE and COPENHAGEN) commanding at once the profound attention and respect of all present, addressed the Meeting in the following never to be forgotten words :

“GENTLEMEN,

“I beg leave to return you my most respectful
“thanks, for the honour done me in drinking my

* During the heat of the action off Cape Trafalgar, when the men began to drop fast, from the system of sharp shooting from the tops of the *Bucentaur*, Admiral Villeneuve's ship, Lord Nelson was advised *not to appear so conspicuously, in full uniform*, to the mark of the top-men of the enemy. His answer ought to be recorded in the heart of every Briton, and engraven on his monument. “No, said his Lordship, whatever may be the consequence, the insignia of the honors I now wear, I gained by the exertions of British seamen, under my command, in various parts of the world ; and in the hour of danger I am proud to shew them to the enemies of Old England, I will never part from them ; if it please God I am to fall, I will expire with these trophies entwined ‘round my heart,”

10 LORD NELSON'S SECOND VISIT TO MONMOUTH.

“health, and also for the acknowledgment of the
“important public services, you are pleased to
“say, I have rendered my country.

“It was my good fortune to have under my
“command some of the most experienced officers
“in the English Navy, whose professional skill
“was seconded by the undaunted courage of
“British Sailors; and whatever merit might
“attach itself to ME, I must declare, that I had
“only to SHEW THEM THE ENEMY, AND VICTORY
“CROWNED THE STANDARD!

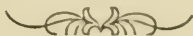
“The British Navy has received a large portion
“of public applause; but, however well deserved,
“it should be told, that the same valour, and
“sense of duty, would have marked the conduct
“of the BRITISH ARMY, had it been placed in
“such situations, as would have afforded it an
“equal opportunity of displaying its national
“courage; but it has unluckily happened, that
“the same good fortune, in this instance, did not
“occur, or we should have had EQUAL REASON
“FOR PRAISING ITS HEROISM AND PUBLIC SERVICES.

“When the English Army was sent to
“EGYPT, it was the opinion of many intelligent
“characters, THAT IT WOULD BE DESTROYED.
“For my own part, I NEVER THOUGHT so,—for
“wherever the British Soldiers have been
“opposed to those of France, they have uniformly
“conquered them.

“In my own person, I have received an
“overflowing measure of the Nation's Gratitude,
“far more than I either merited or expected;
“because the same success would have crowned
“the efforts of any other British Admiral, who
“had under his command such distinguished
“officers, and such gallant crews.

“And here let me impress it on the mind of
“every Officer in the service,—That to whatever
“quarter of the globe he may be destined;

“whether to the East or West Indies, to Africa
 “or America, the EYES OF HIS COUNTRY ARE
 “UPON HIM ; and, so long as public men, in
 “public stations, exert themselves in those
 “situations, to fulfil the duty demanded from
 “them by the public, they will always find
 “the British Nation ready to heap upon them
 “THE UTMOST EXTENT OF ITS GRATITUDE AND ITS
 “APPLAUSE !”



THE DINNER TO LORD NELSON.

Mirth and song now began to hold their influence over the meeting ; and immediately on his Lordship's being seated, Lady Hamilton favoured the company with a Song, in appropriate words to the National Air of GOD SAVE THE KING, with the highest effect.

During the course of the evening, many other very excellent songs were given, particularly by the late Mr. Callender, and Mr. Yarworth, which were received with great marks of approbation ; — and, after the song of the BRITISH GRENADIERS, by the Honorable John Lindsay, LORD NELSON again rose up ; and, in his former dignified and impressive manner, addressed the meeting in the following words :

“GENTLEMEN,

“I must repeat my obligations to you, for
 “the MARKED ATTENTIONS I have received from
 “the Inhabitants of MONMOUTH, as well as
 “from the company assembled on the present
 “occasion. Nor can I leave you without
 “wishing to impress my sentiments on your

"minds, and to bring them home to the feelings of every individual.

"Whenever the British Army has been opposed to the French forces, without the incumbrance of German, Russian, or other auxiliaries, it has invariably defeated them. The fact is, all the great battles the French obtained WERE OVER OUR ALLIES, and NOT OVER THE BRITISH SOLDIERS; and if those allies had been as FAITHFUL to their engagements as ourselves, the French would not have to boast of what they deem 'their splendid victories.

"GENTLEMEN,—I SHALL NOW SPEAK TO YOU AS AN ENGLISHMAN; if ever WAR was again to take place, I would send every Ship, every regular Soldier, out of the kingdom, and leave the nation to be protected entirely by THE COURAGE OF HER SONS AT HOME. I remember in the year 1759, there were great threats of a FRENCH INVASION! but all reasonable men only smiled at the idea of such an attempt. Suppose the French were to land in England, what would be the consequence? They might plunder and destroy a village,—they might burn Monmouth,—but I will engage for it they never would advance as far as Hereford, FOR THEY WOULD ALWAYS FIND BRITONS READY TO RECEIVE THEM.

"In all the histories of Kingdoms and States that I have read, it was the want of UNANIMITY among themselves that produced THEIR fall, and that alone will be able to effect the overthrow of OUR OWN: for so long as the people continue to unite HAND AND HEART (as we have seen on the late threatened invasion by the FRENCH), WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR, EITHER FROM THEIR EFFORTS, OR FROM THOSE OF ALL THE WORLD UNITED IN ARMS AGAINST US!"

At the conclusion of this second address, Lady Hamilton sung appropriate words to the national air of *RULE BRITANNIA*, with such taste and powers of execution, as called forth the utmost astonishment and delight in the mind of every person at table. The talents, indeed, of those professional British females the writer ever heard at the London theatres, were placed at an immeasurable distance, when compared with the vocal accomplishments of this Lady.*

In the course of the evening, when the attention of the company was not called upon by the speeches of Lord Nelson, or by songs, the late Mr. Henry Parry, of this town, who was seated next his Lordship at table, took an opportunity of asking the illustrious chief a question respecting the action off Copenhagen. "It has been asserted, said Mr. Parry, "that the action of that day was more severely "contested than the battle of the Nile." "Yes, sir, replied his Lordship; if that had "been a FRENCH fleet, I should have destroyed "it IN TWO HOURS; but the DANES FOUGHT "LIKE MEN!"

* "Did not Lord Nelson *speak* well to you, yesterday," Mr. Heath, — said Lady Hamilton, when she honoured me with a visit on the following day:—"And did not your Ladyship *sing* "well to us," was my reply: further adding, "It "would be difficult to decide, whether the *speeches* "of his Lordship, or her Ladyship's *songs*, were "most to be admired, by those who had the "happiness of hearing them."

The words to the hymn of *God Save the King*, have been printed, in a political collection, from mention being made of the *Scandinavian shore*, — and to those of the Air of *Rule Britannia* [I am induced to believe], are printed in an annual collection, published by Mr. Fairburne, London.

This remark of his Lordship, is confirmed by a former assertion ; for speaking to Colonel Lindholme, at Copenhagen, immediately after that event, he said, "I have been in an "hundred engagements in the course of my "life, but that of to-day was the most terrible "of all."

About eight o'clock, his Lordship and friends took leave of the meeting in the most polite manner,—and afterwards accompanied Colonel Lindsay to the beautiful summer house in his garden,—at this time in the possession of Mr. Thomas Embry,—there to enjoy the refreshments of tea and coffee, and pass the remainder of the evening in that charming retreat.

Never were "the feast of reason and the flow of soul" more happily enjoyed than at this meeting. His Lordship addressed the company with an energy peculiarly HIS OWN, —whose words, like the notes of the above Lady, might be said still to vibrate on our ears ; and I may venture to assert there is not a person who shared in its pleasures that would, for a very large boon, dismiss the recollection of them from his memory.

In the morning of Friday,—Lord Nelson, accompanied by Mr. Hardwick, viewed the church, public buildings, and other parts of the town ; and about eleven o'clock his Lordship with the whole of his friends, did the writer the honor of a visit, and were pleased to receive from him copies of his description of Monmouthshire, with the scenery of which they expressed themselves so much delighted.

The feelings of that man are not to be envied, who could receive with coldness such a mark of attention from a nobleman, who might be deemed the pride and glory of his country. On receiving the books, he thanked

me in the most gracious manner, and taking his hat off, laid it on the shop counter, which drew from me the remark, "that as monarchs had taken off their hats to his Lordship, it was impossible for him to remain uncovered in the presence of a country printer, and that he would permit me to replace it again on his head."

Vanity has no share whatever in detailing the conversation which passed at this interview:—it has BETTER and more INTERESTING motives. Observing to his Lordship, "That the company at dinner were extremely gratified by his addresses to them; and if it would not be considered as taking a liberty, I should feel obliged in receiving his permission to commit them to press?"—To which he immediately replied, "No, Mr. Heath, I am an old man, and may not live long; it is my wish that posterity should know my sentiments; therefore DO IT." I accordingly published them in a few days, and, for the first time, gave them a place in my collections.

Receiving so kind an answer, I was further induced to know from his Lordship, the truth or fallacy of an heroic action, said to be performed by him off Cape St. Vincent, on the 14th of February, 1797, with the Spanish fleet, which had often appeared to me as an instance of the greatest personal valour, and worthy of being recorded among the brightest achievements of his ever memorable life. In consequence of which, I then said, "It would very much increase my obligations, if he would permit me to ask him another question;" and his lordship replying, "I MIGHT ASK AS MANY AS I PLEASED,"—I proceeded with my inquiries. I mentioned, "I had seen, IN A LOW PRINT,—

such as were hawked about by the Jews,* a representation of his Lordship in the above glorious action, after having captured the Santissima Trinidad, boarding another of the enemy's ships, by following a Marine along the bowsprit of his own vessel, and jumping into the San Josef at the quarter gallery window, IF THE CIRCUMSTANCE WAS FOUNDED IN FACT?—"IT IS VERY TRUE," was his Lordship's immediate reply,—*"THE MAN WENT IN FIRST, AND I FOLLOWED HIM."* I was also very particular in enquiring, "if his Lordship ever knew who the gallant fellow was?" and whether, like another Alexander, "he lived to fight the battle o'er again?" but he only repeated for answer, "that all he knew of the man was, he was a PRIVATE SOLDIER, belonging to the 69th regiment of foot, doing duty as a MARINE :—what his FATE was, every person, in moments like those, was too much engaged in his own duty, to be acquainted with the fortunes of others." But when his Lordship left my shop, and joined again in conversation, he observed to Mr. Hollings, on whose arm he rested, "Since Mr. Heath has challenged my memory, I have a better recollection of the circumstance to which he alludes : Two men left the ship with me, but one of them fell into the sea ;—the other, as soon as he got near the end of the bowsprit, knocked in, with the butt end of his musket, the quarter gallery windows of the enemy's vessel, jumped through them into the ship, AND I FOLLOWED HIM. The soldier, besides

* There is a fine print on this subject, from a painting by Singleton. The scene of action is laid on the quarter deck of the San Josef, in which Lord Nelson and Sir Edward Berry, with sailors and marines, are distinguished characters, in this honourable instance of British intrepidity.

his musket, had some other dreadful instrument of death (which his lordship named, but which Mr. Hollings did not afterwards recollect), and when he met the enemy, he used it with such fury that I soon after exclaimed to him, MERCY, MERCY! STOP, STOP! and immediately the Spaniards surrendered up their ship." Hence it may be said, that, by the daring spirit of a British private soldier, this vessel was almost instantly wrested from the power of the enemy, and its commander, the commodore, laid prostrate at the conqueror's feet.

His Lordship now desired me to send him the provincial newspapers; and, writing his address to Merton in Surry, requested me to keep it, as a memorandum of his visit. He then took me by the hand, in a most gracious manner; and, leaving the house, observed, HE SHOULD FEEL A PLEASURE IN RENDERING ME ANY SERVICE EITHER PRESENT OR FUTURE THAT LAY IN HIS POWER.

LORD NELSON'S DEPARTURE.

A FEW weeks enabled me to fulfil his Lordship's desire; and having printed his sentiments delivered at the public dinner, I inclosed a copy with the newspapers, which produced the following LETTER,—rendered more estimable by being written with his own hand:

Merton, September 14th, 1803.

SIR—Lady Hamilton and myself beg leave to return you our thanks, for your kind attention to our wishes, in sending the newspapers and my speech; which, although it flowed immediate from the heart, was but ill suited to meet the eye of the public, except those partial friends of Monmouth, to whom we, with Sir William, Doctor and Mrs. Nelson, beg to be remembered with the utmost esteem, and I beg you to believe that I feel myself

Your much obliged and obedient Servant,

NELSON & BRONTE,

Mr, Chas. Heath,

IV

Not to me alone was his lordship's courtesy confined. After the dinner cloth, at the Beaufort Arms Inn, was removed, on his first arrival here, Mr. Watkins (of Deep Holm, who then kept the house,) acquainted his illustrious guest, he had a few bottles of claret in the cellar that had lain there some years, which, with permission, he should feel a pleasure in placing before him. To this request, Lord Nelson assented; and, on their being brought, desired the host to take a seat by his side. His Lordship then filled his glass, and drank Mr. Watkins' health. On returning thanks for the honour done him, Mr. W. remarked, that he had filled many a glass to his lordship's health, in common with the rest of his countrymen, when he was fighting their battles in distant climes; but he never expected the pleasure of so doing in his present situation.—Where was I, he then asked, when you drank my health?—After the Battle of the Nile, my Lord, was the reply. Poh, said his Lordship, that was nothing! I always did beat the French, and I always will, Watkins, whenever they give me an opportunity of meeting with them.—But, he subjoined, I have had a harder day since!—On Mr. Watkins asking, "In what action?" He answered, at Copenhagen;—that was a terrible day, indeed!

The same frankness accompanied all his conversations with every individual, who appealed to him for information. Mr. Hardwick took an opportunity of inquiring, "If he had preserved any of the spoils, taken in his distinguished victories; if ever so trifling an article, whether a sword, musket, pistol, flag, &c. the present would be received with every degree of respect it merited, and hung up in the Kymin Pavilion, as a memorial of esteem for the distinguished character, by whom the trophy had been bestowed."—And here we have a fine trait of

his noble mind,—who returned for answer, “That whatever was obtained from an enemy, he considered as the property of his King; and the only article he ever possessed, was the sword of Admiral Broussin, who commanded the French Fleet at the Battle of the Nile, which he afterwards presented to the Corporation of the city of London, in whose possession it now remains.”

Let me still further increase the colloquy.—When taking leave of his lordship, Mr. Hardwick hoped, that from the important public services he had rendered his country, and the agonizing wounds he had suffered in its defence, the remainder of his glorious life would be passed in ease and comfort:—To which remark he instantly replied, “No, Hardwick, I consider my life as devoted to my King; —and should war again take place I shall quit my retirement, solicit a command, and employ all my exertions against the common enemy; concluding with his detestation of the French, whom, as was before observed, he considered as a set of d——d perfidious rascals.”

These sentiments, which were expressed with all the energy of mind so peculiar to his Lordship's character, have been further confirmed, by an observation he is said to have made, to his friend Admiral Stirling, just before he went upon the service, which terminated so brilliantly for his own fame, and for that of his country. “My health is so bad that I ought to retire; but as my generous countrymen seem to think, that I could do something if I were to meet the enemy, I feel it to be a duty to do what I can. I shall therefore go, and hope I shall be able to meet and conquer them; and I shall think my life gloriously sacrificed in such a cause.”

It will be gratifying to the inhabitants of Monmouth the being informed, that their attentions to this illustrious Hero were neither overlooked nor forgotten. Observing in the public prints, the arrival at Cheltenham of one of his lordship's most intimate naval captains, who had borne a distinguished share in all his glorious achievements, the writer presented for his acceptance a copy of the HISTORY OF MONMOUTH, he had just published; which procured him the following LETTER: and to add to its value, if possible,—being written by an officer who commanded a ship of the line, both at the battle of Abouquir and Trafalgar*—it was franked to him by the not less distinguished conqueror at Alexandria:

Cheltenham, August 26th, 1806.

SIR,

I request you will accept my best thanks for your very acceptable present, which I shall pre-

* Mr. EDEN, then Clerk of the ship commanded by the above officer, having obtained permission, on the return of the Fleet from the action off Cape Trafalgar, to visit a family at Goodrich, near Monmouth, he was particularly desired to call upon me, personally to thank me for this present, and to be assured that the letter had reached my hands. This young gentleman, while writing at a table, during the battle, a cannon ball fell in the room where he was seated, in which were upwards of eighty stand of arms, the whole of which it shivered in pieces, and one of them (part of the guard of a musket), grazed his head, but without doing him any injury. The fragment he picked up, and at this interview gave to me, as a memento of his esteem. Sorry I am to say, that after being in the battle in the West Indies, with Sir Thomas Duckworth, he went to sea again with the fleet, destined to bring away the Danish navy from Copenhagen, where he ended his life.

serve as a memento of one who feels as he ought for the memory of the great Lord Nelson. I have heard him with pleasure, speak of the handsome testimonies of respect and attention paid him by the town of Monmouth; and I beg you will assure yourself, that if my health permitted it, I should take great pleasure in visiting Monmouth, and personally thanking you for this mark of attention.

I am, Sir,

Your obliged and very faithful Servant,

• • • • •

Mr. Heath, Monmouth.

The summer of 1809 attracted to this celebrated Spa, for the benefit of his health, another of those Captains, who had most zealously supported his Lordship in the glorious battle of the Nile; and, in consequence of a like offer for his acceptance, I had the pleasure of receiving the following acknowledgment,—which will further confirm the high opinion the Sons of the Ocean entertain of the inhabitants of Monmouth, and the Public Monument erected to their individual honor; and which alone must justify, to the candid reader, the extension of my pages on this occasion:

Cheltenham, August 2, 1809.

SIR,

I have to return you my best thanks for your kind letter and invaluable present, relating the visit of my much respected and late gallant friend, Lord Nelson, to Monmouth and its neighbourhood. I should derive infinite gratification in viewing that beautiful country, whose loyal inhabitants have so honourably recorded the efforts of the British Navy, and to offer you, in person, my obligations; but believe, the re-instatement of my health will require my stay at this place, until enabled to return to my professional duties.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your much obliged humble servant,

• • • • •

Mr. Charles Heath, Monmouth.

Friday noon, Lord Nelson and friends left Monmouth, and proceeded from thence to Rudhall, the seat of Thomas Westfaling, esq. ; who, whilst upon a tour on the continent, was at Naples during most of the important events which agitated that country in the late war, and acquired an intimacy with his Lordship at that court.

At Ross, their carriages attempted to pass by a private way ; but, to gratify the wishes of the inhabitants, they drove along the principal street, where, opposite the Swan Inn, a triumphal arch, ornamented with laurel and oak, and an appropriate inscription, had been erected, for his lordship and party to pass through.

At Rudhall House, every preparation had been previously made to receive his Lordship with the honors due to so distinguished a character. The gardens were thrown open, a band of music attended, and all the principal families of the neighbourhood were invited to join in the fête. An elegant collation, with fruit and wines, was served on the lawn ; and in the evening a grand display of fire works took place ; and an arch, with a star above, formed of variegated lamps, made a striking part of the illumination.

Go, laurel, pluck'd from Rudhall's bow'rs,
To bind the temples of the brave ;
Crown him amid these festive hours,
And grace the Hero of the Wave !

He, whom each free-born Briton boasts,
Our terrors to the world has shewn ;
Seiz'd many a wreath on foreign coasts,
And taught them to respect his own.

Thy boughs inviolate appear'd ;
A sacred shade upon the plain ;
While war's wide-wasting blast was heard,
And NELSON thunder'd on the main,

But whilst his voice dispell'd the gloom,
 And taught our rocky shores to smile,
 What hostile land could e'er presume
 To tear a wreath from Albion's Isle?

Go!—say to him, who knows no fear,
 “Grateful for thy protecting care;
 “The British laurel waits thee here,
 “Twin'd by the hands of British fair.”

The following lines were presented to his lordship, with a wreath of laurel.

The following lines were also placed on the branch of a venerable Oak near the house :

Ye Britons, venerate this tree,
 The guardian of our liberty,
 Through many a distant age;
 Beneath its shade the Druid rose,
 And wak'd the British youth from woes,
 To true heroic rage.

Forth from their woods they rush'd like flame,
 What time Rome's hostile legions came,
 They met them at the waves ;—
 And who shall call the conflict vain ?
 They perish'd on their native plain,
 Nor liv'd a race of slaves.

And still this tree, to Britons dear,
 Protects our rights from year to year ;
 Hence are our terrors hurl'd.

Ye Britons, venerate the Oak !
 NELSON from this in thunder spoke,
 And shook th' astonish'd world !

While this shall flourish in the glade,
 What foe shall dare our rights invade ?

O, lovely tree, increase !
 Still spread thy bending branches far
 Protect us from the woes of war,
 And shelter us in peace.

The whole concluded with a Ball, which detained the company till an early hour the

next morning, when they quitted with reluctance the scene of so much hospitality and pleasure. Some thousands of spectators were present; and several hogsheads of cider were liberally dispersed among them.

It was a circumstance of a very singular nature, that his lordship should meet with, at the table of a private gentleman in Herefordshire, one of the characters who had signed the treaty, after the action at Copenhagen. Baron ANKER, the person alluded to, had been travelling through Monmouthshire and South Wales, to inspect the iron works in those parts of the kingdom, having very extensive engagements in that branch of commerce in Denmark where he resided. Being seated at the dinner table at Rudhall, Lord Nelson, on hearing the name pronounced, suddenly repeated it with much surprise; and after mutual expressions of astonishment at their meeting had taken place, they sat down again, to join in the pleasures of the festive board.

THE KYMIN PAVILION.

ON the eastern side of the town (forming, as it were, a boundary* to the counties of Monmouth and Gloucester,) a broad face of Hill rises irregularly from the bank of the Wye, to the height of near 700 feet† from the bed of that river; on the summit of which has been erected a building, called THE KYMIN PAVILION, from whence is enjoyed a Prospect, equal in point of richness and picturesque beauty, to any inland view in the whole range of the kingdom.

* A small brook, about a quarter of a mile from the Pavilion, divides the two counties.

† Taken with a quadrant, it measured two hundred and thirty yards.

By the kind communication of a gentleman well acquainted with the language, I am informed, that CAE in the Welch,—which is written KE^e in the Irish,—signifies A LEDGE: MAEN signifies A LARGE STONE: and the compound word, “Cae-y-MAEN,” or “Ce-y-Maen,” which appears to be the old British name of the hill, signifies, “THE LEDGE OF LARGE STONES, OR PIECES OF ROCK.”

This ETYMOLOGY so perfectly accords with the spot, that there can be no doubt of its correctness: more especially when we recollect, that the Welch gave names to all their towns and particular places from local circumstances.‡

‡ In addition to the above, I add the following Etymology:—

“*Chimin* anciently signified a highway generally, but was more particularly applied to a highway leading to or through a *Forest*; and *Chiminage* was an ancient *Toll* for *Wayfarage* through a *Forest*.”

“*Nullus forestarius de cetero, qui non sit forestarius de feodo, reddens nobis firmam pro balvia sua, capiat CHIMINAGIUM aliquid in balvia sua.*

Translation.—“No forester, from henceforth, who is not a forester of the fee, paying us a rent for his bailwick, shall take any *Chiminage* (*Wayfarage*), in his bailwick.”—*Charta de Foresta*, 9 Henry III.

Further, Howell's Interpreter, quoting from Kitchen:

“*Chimin*, French, *Chemin*, signifies, in a Law phrase, a way: It is divided into two sorts, the King's highway, and a private way. The King's highway, is that by which the King's subjects, and all under his protection, have free liberty to pass, though the property of the soil, of each side, where the way lieth, may perhaps belong to some private man. A way private, is that, by which one man, or more, have liberty to pass, either by prescription or by charter, through another man's grounds.”

The upper part of the Hill is formed by a grand girdle of rocks,—similar to those above New-Wear on the left bank of the Wye,—and immediately underneath are thickly scattered about stones of enormous magnitude, in a variety of fantastic shapes and forms, nearly the whole extent of the eminence.

Though the objects included in this interesting scene will be minutely described from the Pavilion, it may not be importunate briefly to notice the walk up to it ; which is rendered as easy as the nature of the ground will admit, by a winding path. Passing Wye Bridge, we pursue the direct turnpike road to the wharf, at the foot of May Hill ; at which place, a path, on the left hand, conducts us to the Hill Farm. In the middle of this rise, we enjoy what might truly be deemed a picturesque view of the Town,—behind which recede, and bound the horizon, the fine hills of Monmouthshire,—a more distinct notice of which will be taken in its proper place.

On gaining the first steep, the country leading towards Ross more extensively unfolds itself ;

In the memory of many of the inhabitants, the public highway, from Monmouth (through *Stanton*, the adjoining parish, and the *Forest of Dean*,) to Gloucester and *London*, was the DITCH, on the left hand, running parallel with the path, immediately as you enter the fields belonging to the Hill Farm ; and the ingenious Etymology of *Buckstone*, by the late Rev. Dr. P. Griffin, of Hadnock, supports this latter authority. An old man, residing in Stanton, told the person, from whom I received the information, that *he had seen the Judges*, when on the Circuit, ride this way on horseback, with their jack-boots on, into Monmouth. See more on this subject, in my *Account of Monmouth*.—If we complain of the roads at the present day, what must they have been at the period under consideration ?

entering the field, the hill comes immediately in front ; passing into the Coach Road, now formed for the accommodation of Carriage Visitors, another part of the country rises to view ; still ascending, the grand woody eminences, between which the Wye winds its course, come in sight ; while, at the extremity, the county of Gloucester is the prominent feature in the landscape ; in which manner it continues varying, from one point to the other, the whole extent of the walk.

The summit is formed by a kind of oblong square, about three hundred yards long, by fifty wide ; the ground falling down, in an easy slope to the eastward, which includes the Beaulieu Farm, while beyond it rose majestically (but now lately fallen), a rich and extensive Wood, where stands an interesting body of rock, named BUCKSTONE, a visit to which will well reward the stranger's curiosity. The North and South sides are formed by the Beaulieu Grove, and woods stretching towards Red-Brook.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAVILION.

The House is placed in the centre of the summit of the Hill, and consists of a circular embattled tower, thirty feet high, containing two rooms, fifteen feet in the clear inside ; the lower apartment forming a commodious kitchen ; the upper one, the Banqueting-room, which is fitted up in a manner suitable for the purposes of friendship and conviviality, to which it is devoted. In the front, a light iron railing is carried before it, for some yards ; at the end of which, a range of upright stones extend along the brow of the eminence, from one extremity to the other.

▼

MOTIVES WHICH GAVE BIRTH TO THE PAVILION.

Before we proceed to detail the views from their respective WINDOWS, we shall introduce the Motives which gave birth to the erection of the building.

A select party of friends had been in the habit of spending a social day together annually, in the course of the summer season, on some pleasant spot in the neighbourhood of Monmouth, but not confined to any particular situation ; sometimes on the Graig Hill, sometimes in one place, and sometimes in another, as best suited the arrangements of the company. In the year 1793, one of the gentlemen proposed to meet and dine among the Kymin Rocks (not having been there for several years) which was immediately agreed to, and they met accordingly. Owing to the fineness of the day, and the beauty of the prospect, the party were so much pleased, that, contrary to their usual custom, they agreed to dine together, on the same spot, the week following. Dinner after dinner succeeded for some time, the repetition of which served only to enhance their partiality for the place, till the change of the season at last compelled them to break up their meetings for that year.

Compulsory motives for separation are never in unison with the feelings of any society, much less with that whose object is professedly convivial. Under these circumstances, one of the company expressed a wish to have a slight building erected, as a security from the inclemency of the weather. What will you give towards such a purpose? was the question proposed : I'll give my Guinea, said one ; I'll give mine, said another ; I'll add mine, said a third : in short, such was the spirit which

prevailed, that twenty guineas were immediately subscribed, which in a week after amounted to forty, and in the course of a month (by the party's interest among their friends), to the respectable sum of something more than eighty guineas. With such a subscription in hand, and finding the wishes of the public (in support of the new edifice) to keep pace with those of the party who proposed the scheme, P. M. Hardwick, Esq. of Monmouth (who was appointed Treasurer, and under whose direction it was to be executed), was induced to erect something more comfortable than a mere protection from the elements. Accordingly, he ordered a drawing to be made of a pleasant Summer House, on a neat plan, with an estimate of the expence thereof, which being delivered in, and much approved of, on Thursday, May the First, 1794, the first stone of its foundation was laid by Mr. Hardwick, in the presence of several gentlemen and other friends to the undertaking.

Considerable efforts were immediately made speedily to erect and cover in the building, in order to guard against the delay which bad weather might occasion ; but before the masons had proceeded as high as the first room, the public mind was so much delighted with the place, that parties assembled almost the whole of the day to partake of such refreshments as they had brought with them, even under the circumstance of the workmen going on with their employ ; and when the floor of the upper room was laid, the labourers of the artificers were almost suspended for some time, so great was the delight the town and neighbourhood felt at the comfort and pleasure it promised, when finished, for their acception, In the course of two years, it assumed the appearance it now presents to us. Mr. Roberts, of Monmouth, executed the building.

METHOD OF ARRANGING THE VIEWS.

TO render the excursion to this delightful spot as interesting as possible to every description of visitors, the kindness of Mr. Hardwick, whose long residence in Monmouth, and intimate knowledge of the surrounding district, make his observations highly valuable, induced him to undertake a most minute notice of every object to be seen from the banqueting room, within the pale of the horizon.

In a View, comprehending such an infinite variety of objects as here meet the eye, some order was necessary in the arrangement. To lay them down, therefore, in such a manner as should make them perfectly intelligible, the following method was adopted, viz.

As the room contains five windows, the objects will be taken from each distinctly, beginning with the window on the left as you enter it.

I. To give the foreground, with the objects immediately before the eye, from left to right.

II. To extend the sight as far as the foot of the hilly terminations, carrying the eye on as before.

III. To increase the sight to the utmost boundary of the horizon, adopting the same manner in conducting the view from left to right.

Windows No. III. and IV. embracing such an extent of country, the objects in each were divided, as for instance, beginning first with Troy House, and going on to Pont-y-pool; returning again to Gibraltar, and then concluding the scene.

Window No. IV. begins with the Tump house, and extends to the Radnorshire mountains; returns to Dixton church, and concludes as before from left to right.

To the mind of the writer, this plan appeared

the most easy to be understood by the visitor ; but, as he wishes the book to be as useful as possible, in pointing out the objects distinctly, the judgment of individuals, which tends to a better arrangement of the views, will be received with every degree of respect it deserves.

WINDOW, No. I.

The foreground is an easy rise, interspersed with fine woods, corn and pasture lands, and stretches itself to the Gloucestershire hills (beyond the river Severn), which terminates the View.

IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE EYE.

Stanten Meend, a woody and rocky hill, with that interesting body of stone, called BUCKSTONE.

The ruins of a grand mansion, called High-meadow house, formerly the seat of Lord Gage.

The fine church of New land, four miles from Monmouth, a noble edifice.

Clearwell house and park, the seat of the late Charles Edwin, esq.

The summer house in the woods at the Rt. Hon. Chas. Bragge Bathurst's park, at Lidney.

The Village of St. Briavels, church and castle.

The chace adjoining, with the road to the Old Passage

The Maypole hill at Whitebrook, near the river Wye, where are extensive paper mills.

THE HORIZON IS BOUNDED, BEGINNING ON THE LEFT, BY Rodborough hill, near Stroud, with the seat of — Petit, esq.

Hampton common, leading to Tetbury.

The Fleece inn, on the road from Stroud to Bath.

Frocester hill, comprehending a large part of Lord Duncie's park, on the road to Bath.

Stinchcomb Hill, near North Nibley.

Uley Bury, near it.

The eminence crowned with firs, at Wootton-under-Edge.

Alderley, and its firs, the seat of Matthew Adeane, esq.

Other eminences, planted with firs, near it, which bear the names of several Lords of the Mauors, viz. Hartley's, Gibb's, &c.

Didmarton church.

Badminton Lodge, leading to the seat of the Duke of Beaufort.

Oldbury church, an interesting land mark for vessels navigating the river Severn.

The right, is terminated by Dundry Tower, near Bristol.

The Knoll Tump,—and the Mendip hills, Somersetshire

Mr. Codrington's seat lies in the centre of the valley. And a lodge in his park forms an interesting object in the view.

WINDOW, No. II.

The foreground is a declivity to the river Wye, the opposite shore rises in an hasty manner, and presents a face of country rich and varied as the preceding aspect.

IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE EYE,

In the centre, Penalt church and common.

The Argoed house, terminated by the Trellick beacons (which are supposed to be the highest grounds in Monmouthshire).

The farthest mount, to the right, is Windcliff, the highest point in Persfield Walks, the far-famed seat of Nathaniel Wells, esq.

The wood, under which the Wye flows, is called the Levex grove.

The grounds above are called Troy park.

To the right,—Lydart house, belonging to K. Evans, esq.

TERMINATED BY

Nicholls's firs, on a hill, leading from Usk to Caerleon
Nearer home, the Craig-y-dorth (Welch, the stoney hill), rendered famous by the battle of Monmouth 1401, between Owen Glendwr and Henry IV.

WINDOW, No. III.

The foreground is formed by the same declivity as that which lies before the preceding window. This View, which comprehends all that is beautiful in landscape, and on which we might long expatiate, is formed by the following profusion of interesting objects :

BEFORE THE EYE, ON THE OPPOSITE SHORE OF THE RIVER,

Troy House, the seat of the Duke of Beaufort.

Mitchel Troy Church, in which parish the above house is situate.

Pen-y-clawith Church.

The Hill farm, on Trostree hill, belonging to Sir Sam. Fludyer, Bart.

Extending the eye, the seat and park of Capel Leigh, esq. Pont-y-pool, (20 miles).

RETURNING AGAIN INTO THE VALE BEFORE US,

On a rise, Gibraltar, a box, of the late Mr. Duberly, Monmouth.

Saint Dial's farm, occupied by Mr. Leigh.

Wonastow church, and mansion house, the seat of T. Swinnerton, esq.

Dingatstow church, and court-house, the seat of Sam. Bosanquet, esq.

Ragland castle (a magnificent ruin), church and village.

INCLINING TO THE RIGHT (ON AN EMINENCE)

Tre-Owen house and farm, an ancient mansion.

Tregaire and Brungwn churches.

Clytha castle, a beautiful pleasure house belonging to the late William Jones, esq.

Pant-y-goitree, the residence of — Bury, esq.

Lanellin church.

STILL ON THE RIGHT,

Lanarth court, the seat of John Jones, esq.

Lansanfraed court, the residence of Lord Avenmore.

Lanover house, B. Waddington, esq. with the church.

Langattock juxta Usk.

And down the vale, the Hardwick farm, occupied by Mr. Ewer.

IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT,

The principal feature is the town of Monmouth.

AND A LITTLE MORE TO THE RIGHT,

The churches of Landilo, Lanthewy Skerid, and Whitecastle.

Langattock Lingoed church.

THE TERMINATIONS ARE

The three Machen mountains in Glamorganshire.

Pen Twyn Barlwm in Monmouthshire.

Mynydd Meen, near Pont-y-pool.

The Blorens, near Abergavenny.

The two Breconshire beacons.
 The great and little Iscareth mountains.
 The Sugarloaf hill (from its conical form).
 Crickhowell beacons, Breconshire (23 miles).
 The Hatteral hills (in which the river Monnow rises).
 Gaer Vawr, and Dial Carig.

WINDOW, No. IV.

The foreground is formed by the same sloping hill as that which marks the third window. The mind might truly be said to be held captive in looking over so exquisite a scene, which embraces a tract of country varied and beautiful as the imagination can frame.

BEYOND THE TOWN,

A most fertile Valley, watered by the river Monnow,

IN WHICH APPEAR,

The Tump house and farm, the residence of R. Willis, esq.

Parthyre house, an ancient mansion, belonging to Mr. Lorymer.

Tregot house and castle, with the encampment called the skinhill.

On the left, Upper Hilstone house Sir Wm. Pilkinton, Bart.

Lower Hilstone, T. Phillips, esq. Monmouth.

The hill in front is called the Graig.

The valley, opening between Garway Hill and Tregot, is called the Golden Valley, from the richness of its produce.

THE TERMINATIONS ARE FORMED BY

The two black mountains in Herefordshire.

Hay or Talgarth hills in Breconshire, and the Radnorshire mountains.

BRINGING THE EYE AGAIN NEAR HOME,

On the right, in the valley underneath, Dixon church
 The Priory farm, part of the old domain of the Priory in Monmouth.

STILL ON THE RIGHT (WHITE HOUSES)

Newton Place, Mrs. Griffin—Newton Court, Mr. R. Philpott's farm.

The tump in the distance is called Garway hill.

And near it Kentchurch park, the seat of Richard Scudamore, esq. M.P. for Hereford.

LOOKING UP THE WYE :

On a knoll, the Lays house, — Meeke, Esq.
Beyond it, the Fort, Henry Barnes, esq.

AND FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE WINDOW,

The beautiful Valley called URCHENFIELD,
Comprehending the parishes of Whitechurch, Goodrich,
Langarron, St. Weonard's, &c. the most fertile
parts of the county of Hereford, with some part of
Worcestershire.

TERMINATED ON THE LEFT, BY

Aeonbury and Dinmore hills.

Part of Stoke Edith park, all near Hereford.

In front, by the Cleo hill, Shropshire—60 miles from
Monmouth.

And, on the right, by Oakley woods, in Herefordshire.
On the right of Mr. Meek's house, the grand mountain
called Doward, is a fine object.

And, from its summit, you obtain rich views of the
surrounding country.

WINDOW, No. V.

The view from this window is the least in-
teresting of any seen from the Room. The
foreground is a rich wood, called the BEAULIEU
GROVE, descending to the edge of the river
Wye.

The church and town of Ross.

Perrystone court, Mrs. Clifford, 4 miles from Ross.

Perrystone-hill, on the road to Ledbury—a most
beautiful view round the neighbourhood.

On the right,—Over Ross, the late John Nourse's,
esq.

Penyard woods, and the Bollin farm.

On the right, the summer house on the Coppat hill,
near Court-field.

Symond's gate, the grand feature of rock, over the
Wye, at New-wear.

Ruer-dean church.

Firs on May-hill, and Huntley tump, between Ross
and Gloucester.

Still to the right,—Stanton church and village.

The forest of Dean, and Little Dean hill.

And on the left, Lackhampton quarry, near Cheltenham
(35 miles).

THIS VIEW IS TERMINATED, ON THE LEFT, BY
Malvern hills, in Worcestershire.

The Lickey, near Bromsgrove, and the Callow tump,
with some other eminences in the same county.

RECAPITULATION

OF THE

TEN COUNTIES WHICH FORM THESE GLORIOUS VIEWS,
VIZ.

MONMOUTH, GLOCESTER, HEREFORD,
WORCESTER, SALOP, AND SOMERSET,
BRECON, GLAMORGAN, RADNOR,
AND MONTGOMERY.



THE "BUCKSTONE."

ONE of the "Lions of Monmouth," visited by most tourists on their sojourn in that town, is the "Buckstone," a celebrated rocking stone of the Druids (y-maen-sigl), which stands on the brow of a wood about a mile from the Kynin hill, under which the high road from Monmouth to Coleford passes, and is contiguous to the village of Staunton. It is a huge fragment of conglomerate or silicious grit. It stands on a rocky bed on the summit of a wood, and its form resembles an irregular square pyramid inverted, standing upon its apex. Its circumference at the top is fifty-six feet, while the front on which it rests is only about three feet in diameter. The dimensions of the Buckstone are given by FOSBROKE as follows: "Height, ten feet; south-east side, sixteen feet five inches; north side, seventeen feet; south-west, nine feet; and its south side, twelve feet." In June, 1885, this noted stone was upset from the position it had occupied for many centuries by a party of six men, five belonging to the London Star Company, who had performed at Monmouth on the two previous evenings, and the other, Mr. Philpotts, of the Agincourt Inn, with whom the company had been staying. According to their own statement, they went there like any other ordinary visitors to see the stone. Two of the number clambered to the top, as is generally done by some one or more of every party of visitors, though the feat was by no means an easy one. While on the summit, the others com-

menced pushing, to see if the stone, as alleged, really would rock. Suddenly they were surprised to see the large mass of conglomerate turn half round and next moment topple over down the hill, the two men on top having just time to jump off and save themselves from being crushed, as they would have been beneath its weight. This was the men's own version of the affair, but its truth was doubted by some, and one or two who saw the broken portions affirmed that the marks of a lever were plainly visible on the bottom of the stone. The weight of the stone is computed at forty tons. The top stratum, about two feet thick, lay about twenty feet away, crown uppermost; the projecting corner piece to the right, measuring eight feet by eight feet five inches and three feet six inches thick, fell a few yards off, and the bulk of the stone, sixteen feet by seventeen feet six inches by five feet eight inches, was turned upside down twenty feet below, and partially embedded in the earth. A number of fragments lay scattered about, and several of them were carried away as mementoes by persons who visited the place after the accident.

The news of the Buckstone being destroyed soon spread, the men's names were taken by the police, and in a letter to Sir James Campbell, the Mayor drew the attention of the Crown authorities to the matter.

Great indignation was manifested at Monmouth, Staunton, and throughout the Forest when the event became generally known. Those who knew the Buckstone well, disbelieved the statement made by the men.

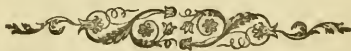
The Mayor of Monmouth and others put themselves in communication with the Crown authorities, who ultimately determined to restore the celebrated rock at the entire expense

of the Crown. The undertaking was one of great difficulty, the huge mass having its chief block, about fifty tons weight, turned upside down, and partly buried in the earth. The enormous top slab, or stratum, had slipped off and fallen beyond the chief block, but right side up. Messrs. Payne and Son, stone contractors, of Lambsquay House, Coleford, were appointed to carry out the work. The contractors erected two enormous cranes and a powerful crab on the hill above the fallen rock. The large baulks of timber were placed with the ends under the chief block, and iron rails were laid on these baulks. About six tons of chains were attached to the chief block for the purpose of "skidding" it up to a position for turning, which, after a considerable time, was accomplished. The top stratum was then hoisted adjacent to the chief stone, and the large corner was also brought to a convenient position. This was the work of months. A plateau for the stone to rest on was then made, with an enormous iron bar let into the solid rock beneath, a bed of cement made of the best material, mixed with similar stone to the Buckstone having been prepared. The top slab was then raised into its position, being cemented and cramped on, and the corner was afterwards affixed by the same means, the result being that the work was completed in a most satisfactory and highly creditable manner.

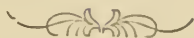
Mr. Heath, in his historical and descriptive account of the town and neighbourhood of Moumouth, published between sixty and seventy years ago, in speaking of the Buckstone, says: "The question of Pope's who shall decide when doctors disagree? might, with great propriety be applied to the object under consideration. In the course of last summer, the writer accom-

panied an intimate acquaintance of the gentleman, whose opinion he last quoted, to Buckstone, who, on viewing it, immediately declared it Druidical, and one of the most interesting among the many he had witnessed. After his curiosity had been here gratified, he further observed he would endeavour to find out the place where the Archdruid reposed, which he soon discovered, on the Meend, at a short distance from the wood, being a large barrow, or mound, fifty yards long by ten wide, but now much overgrown with gorse, fern, and brambles."

The late Mr. T. Wakeman, alluding to the stone, says : " It requires some degree of force to make it vibrate, and, therefore, it is considered by some not an 'orthodox logan stone.' I don't know that we need inquire about its orthodoxy, nor does the question, whether it be a production of art or nature, or a combination of both, at all deteriorate from its merits as an object worth seeing. It is not disputed, I believe, that such vibrating rocks, whether artificial or natural, were objects of veneration in all countries where they were found, and in this particular instance two rock basins in the immediate vicinity, and bearing evident tokens of the hand of man, afford tolerably presumptive evidence that the Buckstone was no exception to the general rule."



Ancient Mansions.



LLANSANTFRAED.

LLANSANTFRAED HOUSE occupies a pleasing eminence, on the right of the road between Usk and Abergavenny, and commands a view of some of the finest scenery in the county, particularly the vale, through which the river USK winds its course; bounded on every side by the lofty mountains, the landscape here glowing in the profusion of all its beauties.

This mansion is recorded in the pedigree of the Herberts to have been the residence of their ancestors at a very early period.

Thomas ap Gwillim ap Jenkin,^o of Perthyre, in the parish of Rockfield, two miles from Monmouth, who was seated here in the reign of Richard II. made great additions to his fortune, by his marriage with Maud, daughter and heir of Sir John Morley, knight, Lord of Ragland Castle, from whom the present Earl of Pembroke, by the male line, is descended.

* William ap Jenkin, called Herbert or Hirbert, possibly from his stature and beauty, (the word in Cambro-British meaning tall and beautiful), was lord of Gwerndee [the black orles] a short distance from Abergavenny, and had four sons, the third of whom, Howell ap Gwilliam, called Herbert, was ancestor of the Jones's of Treowen, Lanarth, and Clytha; Mr. Jones of Lanarth being heir-male of the said Howell.

His son, Sir William Thomas, by the above lady, was a distinguished military character in the reign of Henry the Fifth, being present with his sovereign and countryman at the battle of Azincourt, in defence of whose person he lost his life, while bravely fighting by his side. In the person of his son, William Herbert, his house became ennobled by King Edward IV. who conferred on him the dignity of Earl of Pembroke.

On the death of this nobleman, William his son and heir succeeded to the title ; but King Edward IV. being desirous to dignify his son, Prince Edward, with the Earldom of Pembroke, procured a resignation of the same from this William ; and, in lieu thereof, created him "Earl of Huntingdon." Which William married Mary, the fifth sister and co-heir of Richard Woodville, Earl Rivers, by whom he had an only daughter his heir, named Elizabeth, who married Sir Charles Somerset, afterwards created Earl of Worcester, and carried with her the vast possessions of her ancestors into this family, with whose descendants they have since continued.

Thus, says Mr. Williams, "At a time, when military talents constituted the first claim to honours and wealth, the family of Herbert spread its branches and ramifications through the whole of ancient Siluria ; and in Monmouthshire, possessed several of the best mansions and estates. But at this time, there is not a gentleman of the name of Herbert in the county ; and the present Earl of Pembroke, the representative of a family, which ruled it by the influence of extensive manors, is not the proprietor of an acre of its land.

"Such are the vicissitudes of a great house, whose fortunes have been connected with those

of Courts ; while an elder branch of the same family has retained, in the revolutions of centuries, the possessions of its ancestors, under the disadvantages of a religion, which since the Reformation, has excluded it from favour, interest, or protection at Court ; supposed to be the means of acquiring or preserving estates in families, through any considerable succession of ages."

Llansantfraed having continued, for several centuries, in a regular male succession, the issue at last ended in an only daughter, named Susan, (whose father's name was Henry, and he the son of William) Jones, by whose marriage with the father of the late John Rickards, esq. the estate became his property.

It was at one time let to James Greene, esq. who first improved, beautified, and adorned the mansion ; but, since his removal, added to the death of Mr. Rickards, the estate was sold to Richard Lee, esq. of Lanfoist, near Abergavenny, father to the Lady of John Jones, esq. of Lanarth Court, and was afterwards occupied by John Jones, jun. esq. (his eldest son), who married Lady Harriet Plunkett, daughter of the Earl of Fingal, and is now occupied by Major Herbert.

While speaking of the Herberts and their descendants, the following anecdote of the Werudee family (a branch of that House) near Abergavenny, was communicated to the public by the late William Jones, esq. of Clytha, who observed, "The old inhabitants of Monmouthshire valued themselves much on account of their Families !"

“About eighty years ago (this account was written in 1795), Mr. Proger, of Werndee, hearing from a friend that he intended to visit him, took a ride, on the morning of the day when he expected him, to Monmouth, in order to shew him the way to his house that evening. They dined at Monmouth; but as it rained hard, they were obliged to stay there some hours longer than they intended. However, on its clearing up in the evening, Mr. Proger proposed setting out immediately; to this the stranger objected, it being rather late, and he was afraid it would soon begin to rain again. As to its being late, replied Mr. Proger, we shall have moon-light; and if it should happen to rain hard, Perthyer is but a little way out of our road, and my cousin Powell will, I am sure, be very ready to give us a night's lodging. They accordingly mounted their horses; but had not gone far, when the rain began again to pour. They therefore rode up to Perthyer, where they found everything still; in fact, it being a long summer's evening, the family were all gone to bed: but, as Mr. Proger knew in what part of the house Mr. Powell lay, he was determined he should himself hear him, and therefore shouted aloud under his chamber window. Mr. Powell soon heard him, and putting his head out at the window, asked ‘In the name of wonder what means all this noise? Who is there?’ It is only your cousin Proger of Werndee, who is come to your hospitable door, for shelter from the inclemency of the weather; and hopes you will be so kind as to give him, and a friend of his, a night's lodging.’ ‘What, is it you, cousin Proger? You and your friend shall be instantly admitted; but upon one condition, namely, That you will admit now, and never hereafter dispute, that I am the head of your family.’ ‘What was that you said?’ replied Mr. Proger ‘Why, I said that if you expect to pass the night in my house, you must admit that I am the head of your family.’ ‘No, Sir, I never will admit that; Were it to rain swords and daggers, I would ride through them this night to Werndee, sooner than let down the consequences of my family, by submitting to such

an ignominious condition. Come up, Bald ! come up !' 'Stop a minute, cousin Proger ; have you not often admitted, that the first Earl of Pembroke (of the name of Herbert), was a younger son of Perthyer, and will you set yourself up above the Earls of Pembroke ?' 'True it is, I must give place to the Earl of Pembroke, because he is a Peer of the Realm ; but still, though a Peer, he is of the youngest branch of my family, being descended from the fourth son of Werndee, who was your ancestor, and settled at Perthyer, whereas I am descended from the eldest son. Indeed, my cousin Jones of Lanarth is of a branch of the family elder than you are ; and yet he never disputes my being the head of the family.' 'Well, Cousin Proger, I have nothing more to say : Good night to you.' 'Stop a minute, Mr. Powell,' cried the stranger, 'you see how it pours ; do let me in at least : I will not dispute with you about our families.' Pray, Sir, what is your name, and where do you come from ?' 'My name is so and so ; and I come from such a county.' 'A Saxon of course ; it would indeed be very curious, Sir, were I to dispute with a Saxon about family. No, Sir, you must suffer for the obstinacy of your friend, so, good night to you both.' Thus did the folly of family pride oblige two gentlemen to ride about twelve miles in a very wet evening. —WILLIAMS'S "History of Monmouthshire."

Llansantfraed Church, which signifies the Church of St. Bridget, stands on the demesne to the South of the mansion ; a small edifice, consisting only of a nave, fourteen yards long by four wide, with a lofty vaulted and ceiled roof, apparently appropriated (when erected), solely to the family here resident.

Care having been taken, by Mr. Jones's ancestors to perpetuate their memory, by mural monuments and flat stones in the Church, the

whole of the record is nearly preserved, from the decease of Thomas Gwilliam Jenkin, esq., July 8, 1438, to that of John Rickards, esq. July 18, 1804, embracing a period of FOUR HUNDRED YEARS!

The Living at Llansantfraed is a small Rectory.

PERTHYRE,

Alluded to in the foregoing anecdote, about 3 miles from Monmouth, on the road for Grosmont, is a very ancient seat of the Herbert family. It stands on the right of the present patched building; but few vestiges of the castellated mansion remain, yet some marks of former magnificence may be seen in a long vaulted hall, with music gallery at the end, a large Gothic window, with stone compartments, and the massive oak beams of a long passage. It was surrounded by a moat and had two drawbridges, and the extensive manors which attached to this residence are said to have extended as far as Ross.

COLDBROOK.

This mansion, distant about midway between Llansantfraed and the town of Abergavenny, another residence of the family of Herbert, is delightfully situated at the base of the Skyrrid Vach or Little Skyrrid mountain, amid grounds beautifully diversified and richly clothed with oak, elm, and beech. The house is memorable for having been the residence of three distinguished characters, viz:—1, Sir Richard Herbert, the intrepid soldier and flower of chivalry, whose exploits are recounted in our description of Raglan Castle thus:—"the Erle of Pembroke behaved himself like a hardy knight, and an expert captain; but his brother, Sir Richard

Herbert, so valyauntly acquitted himself, that, with hiss poll-axe in his hand, as his enemies did afterwards report, he twice by fair force passed through the battaile of his adversaries, and without any mortal wound returned. If everye one of his fellowes and companions in arms had done but half the actes which he that daye by his noble prowess achieved, the Northerne men had obteyned neither safetie nor victorie."—GRAFTON, vol. ii., p. 15, 16. (2) Lord Herbert of Cherbury, who resided here and at St. Julians, near Newport, and (3) Sir Charles Hanbury-Williams, the polished courtier and the votary of wit, and companion in the reign of George the Second. From Sir Charles it descended through John Hanbury-Williams, Esq., to the recently deceased Ferdinand Hanbury-Williams, Esq., and to his son Ferdinand Capel Hanbury-Williams.

The original house had a tower at each angle; the north front, with an elegant Doric portico, and was erected by Sir Charles Hanbury-Williams.

"Coldbrook House is situated in a beautiful woodland, at the base of a hill, called the Little Skirrid, in the Cambro-British, Skerryd Vach. Though the summits of all the little undulations of the ground command beautiful views, the house is a retired object; and though it has some circumstances tending to magnificence when examined, the first ideas, on approaching it, are those of solitude and simplicity. The imagination is not diverted from the soothing notion of a retreat, by any trinkets scattered around; and hardly any collateral circumstances, in the paths and stations of the paddock, disagree with the general character. The present condition, and even the furniture, are nearly the same as they were left by the late Sir C. Hanbury-Williams, whose characteristic was the love of pleasure. Some of the pictures, and a few culinary dispositions, are the principal indications of the man; for the sober and temperate disposition of the place

remains, and even vanity has left it simple, elegant, and free from ostentation.'—*Williams's Monmouthshire.*

TRE-OWEN.

A noble mansion of the Herberts, who had so often influenced and directed the events of Monmouthshire, is situated near Monmouth. The house is derived from the Welch, and is said to signify Owen's House.

The late William Jones, Esq., of Clytha, who was descended from the proprietors of this place, furnished a pedigree of his family (inserted in Mr. Williams's History of Monmouthshire), from King Henry I.—1100—down to himself and nephew, John Jones, esq., of Lanarth Court, near Abergavenny, in whose possession it now remains. The last of the family, that made it a residence, was Sir Philip Jones, knt., lieutenant-colonel of the troops raised in Monmouthshire for King Charles I. This gentleman, his lady, and family, were in Ragland Castle with the Marquis of Worcester when it surrendered to the Parliament forces,—since which time it appears to have been tenanted by farmers, who rented the estate.

It occupies a commanding situation, being placed on the top of a ridgy hill, from whence are surveyed some of the most interesting scenes of Monmouthshire.

Over the entrance of the chief front is placed a square stone, charged with the armorial bearings of NINE different noblemen and other characters, formerly of high rank in this county.

A correspondent dignity pervaded the whole of the interior. A staircase, two yards wide, consisting of seventy-two steps, with worm balustrades, each near twelve inches in circumference, the hewels on the quarter spaces two

feet round, the whole of solid oak, which still remains perfect, led to the bed chambers, which, taken altogether, stands unrivalled in the kingdom; and the kitchen is of such a height, that the occupier is obliged to make use of a LONG LADDER to take the DELICIOUS GAMMON off the hooks on which it is suspended.

ST. JULIANS.

Another example of an Elizabethan mansion is that of St. Julians, situate on the left bank of the river Usk, about midway between Caerleon and Newport. The place is, however, chiefly noted as being the residence of the famous Lord Herbert, of Cherbury, remembered as well for his ingenuity, as for his valour and vanity. Lord Herbert married in 1598 the daughter of Sir William Herbert, a direct descendant from the Earl of Pembroke, and thus became possessed of this estate.

The first of the Herbert family seated at St. Julians was Sir George Herbert, third son of William Herbert, first Earl of Pembroke. He married Jane, daughter of Sir Richard Croft, and had three children, viz., Lettice (who married John Morgan, of Tredegar), William, and Walter, the eldest, who married Mary, daughter of Sir William Morgan, of Peucoed. In memory of this Walter Herbert there is an altar tomb in the south aisle of St. Woolos Church. He had two daughters and three sons, of whom Miles lived at Crindau, George at Newport, and William at St. Julians. William was the eldest, and married Jane, daughter of Sir William Griffiths, of Anglesea. Their son William, afterwards Sir William Herbert, married Florence, daughter of William Morgan, Llantarnam. Sir William died in 1592, leaving an only daughter, Mary, who married Lord Herbert, of Cherbury, as above stated.

He became possessed of this seat in 1599. Lord Herbert has been thus described :—"The historical, the philosophical, the right whimsical peer : a man at once and together the negotiator, the scholar, statesman, soldier, the genius and absurdity of his time and nation." He was the most handsome man living in the days of Queen Elizabeth, and was especially favoured by that monarch ; was particularly noticed by Anne of Austria, and was so regarded by Anne of Denmark, that it excited the jealousy of her husband, James the First.

Edward Herbert, first Lord Cherbury, was the fourth male in lineal descent from Sir Richard Herbert, of Colebrook, knight. The estate of Colebrook was inherited by Sir William Herbert, the eldest son, and continued in possession by his line. Sir Richard Herbert, the second son, was steward of the Lords Marchers of North Wales, and resided at Montgomery Castle, where his descendants principally lived. His great grandson, who resided at St. Julians was son of Richard Herbert, and Magdalen Newport, of High Ercall, in Shropshire, born in 1581, at Eyton, in the same county. He contracted marriage with the heiress of St. Julians, and thereby became possessed of the estate. He was very assiduous in learning all bodily exercises except dancing, for which he says he could not find leisure, "employing his mind always in acquiring some more useful accomplishment." At eighteen he quitted Oxford, and either resided with his mother, in London, or at Montgomery castle, till he attained the age of twenty-one. In 1608, his wife and he disagreeing, he visited foreign courts, traversing France, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy. He died in his house in Queen's-street, August 2, 1648, aged 67, and was buried in the chancel of St. Giles-in-the-fields. The estate of St. Julians and the title of Baron

Herbert of Cherbury continued in his descendants until the extinction of the male line by the death of his grandson Henry, who, dying without issue, left his estate to his nephew, Francis Herbert, son of his sister Florentia, by Richard Herbert of Oakley park. The estate was inherited by his son, Henry Arthur Herbert, created Baron Herbert of Cherbury in 1743. Having espoused Barbara, niece and heiress of William Herbert, last Marquis of Powis, he was, in 1748, raised to the Earldom of Powis. The estate of St. Julians was purchased from the late earl by Mr. Van, of Llanwerne; it descended with other property to his daughter Katharine, wife of Sir Robert Salusbury, and was afterwards sold to Mr. Hunter.

The building has been reduced from its original size. The inside contains some remains of former magnificence. The chapel of St. Julius stood near to the mansion, and its remains are used as a barn.

That this William Herbert had no mean opinion of himself and his family, the following letter will shew, and its perusal amuse the readers. It is addressed to a Mr. Morgan, but of what place does not appear:—

SIR'—Peruse this letter in God's name. Be not disquieted. I reverence your hoary hair. Although in your son I find too much folly and lewdness, yet in you I expect gravity and wisdom. It hath pleased your son late at Bristol to deliver a challenge to a man of mine on the behalf of a gentleman, (as he said) "as good as myself"—who he was he named not, neither do I know; but if he be as good as myself, it must be either for virtue, for birth, for ability, or for calling and dignity; for virtue I think he meant not, for it is a thing which exceeds his judgment; if for birth, he must be the heir male of an earl, the heir in blood of ten earls, for in testimony thereof I bear their

several coats. Besides, he must be of the blood royal, for by my grandmother Devereux I am lineally and legitimately descended out of the body of Edward IV. If for ability he must have a thousand pounds a year in possession, a thousand pounds more in expectation, and must have some thousands in substance besides. If for calling and dignity, he must be knight, a lord of several seigniories in several kingdoms; a lieutenant of his county; and a councillor of a province.

Now to lay all circumstances aside, be it known to your son, or to any man else, that if there be any one who beareth the name of gentleman, and whose words are of reputation in his country, that doth say or dare say that I have done unjustly, spoken an untruth, stained my credit and reputation in this matter, or in any matter else, wherein your son is exasperated, I say he lieth in his throat, and my sword shall maintain my word upon him, in any place or province, wheresoever he dare, and where I stand not sworn to keep the peace. But if there be such as are within my governance, and over whom I have authority, I will for their reformation chastise them with justice, and for their malapert misdemeanor bind them to their good behaviour. Of this sort I account your son, and his like; against whom I will shortly issue my warrant, if this my warning does not reform him.

I am, &c.,

WILLIAM HERBERT.

CHURCHYARD, after writing of the creation of William, first Earl of Pembroke, thus speaks of the writer of the above letter :—

And thou my knight, that art his heir in blood,
Through lordship, land, and Raglan's stately towers,
A female heir, and force of fortune's flood
Have thee bereft, yet bearest his fruits and flowers :
His armes, his name, his faith, and mind are thine
By nature, nurture, art, and grace divine,
On seas and lands, these move thee pains to take
For God, for fame, for thy sweet sovereign's sake.

Shortly after I was sent again to my studies at Oxford, where I had not been long, but that an overture for a match with the daughter and heir of Sir William Herbert of St. Julian's was made, the occasion thereof was this:—Sir William Herbert being heir male to the old Earl of Pembroke above mentioned by a younger son of his (for the eldest son had a daughter who carried away those great possessions the Earl of Worcester now holds in Monmouthshire, as I said before), having one only daughter surviving, made a will by which he estated all his possessions in Monmouthshire and Ireland upon his said daughter upon condition she married one of the surname of Herbert, otherwise the said land to descend to the heirs male of the said William, and his daughter to have only a small portion out of the lands he had in Anglesea and Carnarvonshire; his lands being thus settled Sir William died shortly afterwards. His daughter and heir, called Mary, continued unmarried till she was one and twenty. About this time I had attained the age of fifteen, and a match at last being proposed, yet notwithstanding the disparity of years betwixt us, upon the eight and twentieth of February, 1598, I espoused her.

By the marriage the Monmouthshire estates, in accordance with the will, passed to Lord Herbert. If the lady had remained unmarried or had married a person with other name than Herbert, the property would have passed to the family of her father's uncle, Miles Herbert, of Crindau.

The greater part of the next ten years of his life he probably spent at St. Julian's pursuing the studies which he loved, and enjoying the pleasures of a quiet country life, alternated with an occasional resort to and an indulgence in the gaiety of Elizabeth's court. Between 1611 and 1614 he was again at St. Julian's, and in his autobiography he relates that during that period, on a journey from thence to Abergavenny, his

servant attending him fell into the river Usk, and he was rescued by him from drowning. In 1614 he was in the Low Countries, and an incident is related of a visit to a monastery there with Sir Charles Morgan.

King James having occasion to send an ambassador to France for the purpose of renewing the alliance between the two kingdoms, Sir Edward Herbert was chosen among eighteen persons deemed fittest for that appointment, and the King approved him without the smallest hesitation, and the first knowledge he had of the nomination was on being saluted ambassador to France by the Lords of the Council. He remained English plenipotentiary abroad for many years, and it is not certain at what period he afterwards resided at St. Julians.

In 1625 he was made an Irish baron by King James, and in 1631 was raised to an English peerage by the title of Lord Herbert of Cherbury, in Shropshire.

At the commencement of the disputes between Charles I. and the House of Commons, he took an active part on the side of the sovereign. For the spirit he displayed in the House of Lords, and for his manly defence of the King, in opposition to some violent resolutions moved by Lord Kimbolton and adopted by the House, he was committed to the custody of Black Rod. Being released, and having obtained permission to retire into the country for his health, he instantly joined the King at York. Not long afterwards he changed his party from a conviction of the weakness and divisions of the King's counsels rather than from motives of patriotism. He was subsequently a great sufferer from the vengeance of the Royalists, and in 1644 the High Commission granted him satisfaction for the demolition of Montgomery Castle. He was now

advanced in years, which was probably the cause, that with his military prowess and daring spirit he did not take an active part in the civil wars. He died at his house, Queen-street, London, aged 68, and lies buried in the chancel of St. Giles Church. There are many interesting passages in his life.

Little of the original building of St. Julians is now to be seen, the alterations effected during the last few years having almost obliterated what was left of the old pile. The arms of the Herberts, engraved in stone, is still preserved. The house is now the property of the executors of the late Joseph Firbank, Esq., who purchased the property from the present Duke of Beaufort.

In the Life of Lord Herbert of Cherbury, written by himself, is the following account of his being appointed Ambassador of France :—

“Before I came wholly out of my sickness, Sir George Villiers, afterwards Duke of Buckingham, came into the king's favour. This cavalier meeting me accidentally at the Lady Stanhope's* house, came to me, and told me he had heard so much of my worth, as he would think himself happy if by his credit with the king, he could do me any service. I humbly thanked him, but told him that for the present I had need of nothing so much as of health, but that if ever I had ambition, I should take the boldness to make my address by him.

“I was no sooner perfectly recovered of this long sickness, but the Earl of Oxford and myself resolved to raise two regiments for the service of the Venetians. While we were making ready for this journey, the king having an occasion to send an ambassador into France, required Sir George Villiers to present him with the names of the fittest men for that employment that he knew; whereupon eighteen names, among which mine was, being written in a paper, were presented to him. The king presently chose me, yet so as he desired first

* Catherine, daughter of Francis Lord Hastings, first wife of Philip, Lord Stanhope, afterwards created Earl of Chesterfield.


to have the approbation of his Privy Council, who, confirming His Majesty's choice, sent a messenger to my house among gardens, near the Old Exchange, requiring me to come presently to them; myself little knowing then the honour intended me, asked the messenger whether I had done any fault, that the lords sent for me so suddenly; wishing him to tell the lords that I was going to dinner, and would afterwards attend them.

"I had scarce dined, when another messenger was sent; this made me hasten to Whitehall, where I was no sooner come, but the lords saluted me by the name of Lord Ambassador of France. I told their lordships thereupon, that I was glad it was no worse, and that I doubted, that by their speedy sending for me, some complaint, though false, might be made against me.


"My first commission was to renew the oath of alliance betwixt the two crowns, for which purpose I was extraordinary ambassador, which being done, I was to reside there as ordinary. I had received now about six or seven hundred pounds towards the charges of my journey, and locked it in certain coffers in my house, when, the night following, about one of the clock, I could hear divers men speak and knock at the door, in that part of the house where none did lie but myself, my wife, and her attendants; my servants being lodged in another house not far off. As soon as I heard the noise, I suspected presently they came to rob me of my money; howsoever, I thought fit to rise, and go to the window, to know who they were.


"The first word I heard was, 'Darest thou come down, Welshman?' which I no sooner heard, but, taking a sword in one hand, and a little target in the other, I did in my shirt run down the stairs, open the doors suddenly, and charged ten or twelve of them with that fury that they ran away, some throwing away their halberts, others hurting their fellows, to make them go faster in a narrow way they were to pass; in which disordered manner I drove them to the middle of the street by the Exchange, where, finding my bare feet hurt by the stones I trod on, I thought fit to return home, and leave them to their flight. My servants, hearing the noise, by this time were got up, and demanded whether I would have them pursue those rogues that fled away; but I answering that I thought they were out of their reach, we returned home together."





Monmouthshire in 1800.



 IN 1795, Mr. Charles Heath, Bookseller, of Monmouth, wrote and printed several publications descriptive of noteworthy persons and places in Monmouthshire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, and gave a graphic account of the course of the River Wye.

As these pamphlets contain much to interest antiquarians and many of the inhabitants of this county, we purpose to select some the most interesting articles and introduce them in the present work, as the pamphlets alluded to are now scarce, and only possessed by few persons.

He collected many valuable materials connected with the "Man of Ross," whose memoirs he states "were snatched from the oblivious grasp of time—all my informants having since retired to the silent tomb ; and no individual is now living, who possesses the least knowledge of his person or manners ; neither were the public before acquainted with the pedigree of his family." Alike, little was known of Courtfield, even though immortalized for being the nursery of Henry V.

The collections passed through many editions and in 1826, Mr. Heath writes, "Thirty-five years have passed away since I appeared before the public as the author of these Collections ; and though the scenes they attempt to describe might be supposed to have lost that freshness they at first excited, from having by long resi-

dence, become familiar to the eye, I assure the reader they continue to possess an equal portion of interest over my mind, as on the day I first began to reduce the diversified subjects into form."

CHAPTER I.

We will commence our carriage excursion by a Turnpike Road of Ten Miles through Trelleck from

MONMOUTH TO TINTERN ABBEY.

"The face of this country embraces such an infinite variety of attractive objects, that every approach from Monmouth to Tintern unveils an unceasing source of intellectual enjoyment, and will well reward the observant stranger, whichever way soever he may adopt for his course, whether by water or by land, from hence to the venerable Abbey.

On leaving Monmouth we dash down Monnow street, and making an abrupt turn to the left at St. Thomas's church, (a relique of Saxon architecture) enter the public road to those places from whence we obtain the most beautiful views of the town, fronted by Chippenham, and surrounded by the two rivers which unite their streams at the extremity of this extensive meadow.

After passing Troy House, a fine old seat belonging to the Duke of Beaufort, inhabited by Arthur Wyatt, Esq. his grace's steward, we proceed, for near two miles, up an ascent, called Lydart hill; but the eye of the traveller will be amused the whole of the way by the scenery which it overlooks, rendered more interesting by each progressive step; and when he gains the summit, hours might be enjoyed in the summer season, in contemplating the captivating landscape spread before him, formed by the rich

vales and eminences of Monmouthshire terminated by the Welch mountains.

LYDART HOUSE, the property of T. Oakley, esq. occupies a pleasing situation on the slope of this hill, and opposite is Wonastow, the mansion of T. Swinnerton, esq. of Butterton Hall, Staffordshire, now the occasional residence of his son-in-law, Sir William Pilkington, bart.

As we ascend what John Bunyan would term "Hill Difficulty," we will explain the cause of its continuance.

The good sense of the Commissioners of the Turnpike Trust intended under the Trellech Inclosure Act then before Parliament, to divest this rise of its toil, aliko to man and beast, by laying down a NEW, as well as a more DIRECT, line of communication with the many very valuable farms in that populous district, which was to be taken through the fields below Lydart House, to Mr. Prosser's farm, and end at the Gawket, a small cottage at the extremity of Mitchel-Troy Common.

But this measure, though of such acknowledged public utility, was most successfully opposed by the then proprietor of the estate, before he sold it to Mr. Oakley, which has ultimately produced a road, by the side of the river Wye, as will render property of very little comparative value to what it would have been, had the line been carried through the land the Commissioners marked for that purpose. All the carriages of the nobility and gentry passed through the village of Trellech to Tintern and Chepstow, which gave it an air of great cheerfulness—none of which will now be seen, except such as curiosity might prompt to view the scenes here described, for they will be able to reach Tintern by the new road with more ease, and in less time, than they will arrive at Trellech, under its present arduous ascent.

4 THE FIRST PRIVATE CARRIAGE AT MONMOUTH.

Mr. Burgh (steward to the duke of Beaufort), who resided at Troy House, was one of the first gentlemen who kept a carriage at Monmouth, according to Mr. J. Evans, who furnished me with the anecdote. Mr. Burgh was daily surrounded by a fine family of ten children (five of each sex), who had arrived at men and women's estate, and always attended their parents to church on a Sunday at Monmouth; whose appearance, added to the coach, attracted an equal number of spectators at the church gates, as now assemble to witness the judges and sheriff at the county assizes on that day.

The VOITURE resembled a modern stage waggon, being not only extremely bulky, but was also encumbered with a large BOOT IN FRONT, capable of containing the baggage and provisions of a family for a long journey. While in office, he formed the present road from the Cinder-hill turnpike to Troy Lodge (at that time belonging to the adjoining meads), for the convenience of his own carriage, going to and coming from Monmouth.

Instead of passing through the above turnpike, we followed the narrow lane, on the right hand, leading to Port Mahon, and descended the hill communicating with the road at Trothy-bridge. From hence we proceeded along the present line of communication, which obtained the name of Lydart CAUSEWAY, a rough stone road, for the accommodation of pedestrian passengers. Like the generality of other roads, this was a barbarous hollow way, six feet below the surface of the ground, through which the traveller had to wade, bemired in clay, till he gained the summit of this tedious eminence at Penalt."



PENALT COMMON,

"A large tract of country lately inclosed,—on which, near the road side, and within a small square, are Five Trees, so placed, to mark the junction of this parish with those of Trellech, Cwmcavon, and Mitchel-Troy, the fifth tree being the central point. A public house, called "the Gawket" (which name the place still bears), adjoined it, where the magistrates held their meetings; but, from falling into ruins, have since been removed to Trellech. At a short distance from hence, on the left, fronted by a long range of stately trees, is the ARGOED, a fine old manor house, formerly the property and residence of the Proberts, of which family was the judge of that name, — but late of Richard Morgan, esq. since whose death it has been occupied by a farmer, who rents the estate.

This place which was surrounded by a fine and extensive Common, lately enclosed, is celebrated for the production of BRECCIA, or PUD-DING STONE, formed more or less compact. Very excellent mill-stones are cut in dove-tailed burrs, which millers pronounce equal to the valuable French stones; and the surrounding counties are also supplied with cider mills from the quarries of Mr. William Williams of this parish.

A very fine specimen of the CORNU AMMONIS, found in a quarry at this place, was in the possession of the late Mr. Duberley, of Monmouth. Such productions are rather rare in this kingdom, being more generally met with in the West Indies. Before the inclosure took place, there stood on the Common a large Oak Tree surrounded by a stone seat. There was a custom, that when a corpse was brought by, on its way to church for interment, it was here rested, and the attendants sung a psalm."

Sir Richard C. Hoare, bart., has added, as a note to the following observation,—“At eleven,

in the church of Gascom, is a portable BELL, called BANGU, and is said to have belonged to St. David. ”

“ BANGU was a Hand-bell, kept in all the Welch churches, during the times of Popery, which the Clerk or Sexton took to the house of the deceased on the day of the funeral ; when the procession began, a Psalm was sung ; the bellman then sounded his bell in a solemn manner for some time, till another Psalm was concluded ; and again he sounded it at intervals till the funeral arrived at the Church. The Bangu was, at this period, deemed sacred : which accounts for the superstitious attributes given it by Giraldus. This ancient custom prevailed till lately at Caerleon, in Monmouthshire, a bell of the same kind being carried about the streets, and sounded just before the interment of a corpse, and some old people now living, remember the ceremony to have prevailed in many other places.”

“ The communication of this place with the opposite side of the country, is kept open by means of a ferry boat, which conveys over both horse and passengers.

TRELLECH

Is a very ancient as well as extensive parish, situate in the upper division of the hundred of Ragland, about five miles from Monmouth, and contains several vestiges of high antiquity ; which, fortunately for the man of observation, are now to be inspected with the utmost ease and facility.

A skilful etymologist says, this place derives its name either from TRE-LECH, the TOWN OF STONES,—or TRI-LECH, or TAIR-LLECH, the THREE STONES,—to each of which ideas it correctly applies. Doctor Griffin, of Hadnock, thus mentions it, in Mr. Williams’s history of the county :

“ TRILLECH, which, in Celtic, signifies three “ stones ; three stones, apparently Druid,

“remain erect in a field adjoining. Ternvail, king of Gwent, gave Trillec to Landaff. This king is supposed to be the Tarnmail of the Saxon annals, slain at Deorham in 577. The donation appears to have been made under one of the three first bishops of Landaff; and, if it then bore the name, the three stones must be of a much more ancient date, and might probably have been the supporters of a cromlech.

“Usk, Trilleek, and Caerleon, went, by marriage of Elizabeth de Burgh, to Lionel Duke of Clarence, second son to Edward III. who had them by marriage with Elizabeth de Clare sister to Gilbert the red, earl of Gloucester, grandmother to Elizabeth duchess of Clarence; Phillippa, daughter of Clarence, married Edmund Mortimer, earl of March, by which this property went to that family.

In later times, these estates came into the family of the Right Hon. Lord Windsor,—and from that nobleman purchased by the duke of Beaufort, with whom they now remain

On the South side of the churchyard, near the cross, is a large stone, which, when mentioned by me to Dr. Griffin, HE, in reply to the question, supposed it to be

A DRUIDICAL ALTAR.

That it was here placed for some important purpose its size demonstrates; measuring 8 feet long,—3 feet 9 inches wide at the head, by 34 inches at the feet, and 12 inches thick,—supported at the top and bottom by two other stones, 2 feet 9 in. high, and 12 inches thick,—the whole forming a body of many tons weight. There appears a small cross at the head of the upper supporter, and four tulips within a circle on the lower, all executed very coarsely in relief, indicative of the age that gave them birth. Some sepulchral stones of early date

also adjoin, but of little moment contrasted with the above mentioned.

THE SUN DIAL.

On a wall, in front of a house on the south side of the church-yard, stood for many years an old dial, but lately removed to the new national school near it.

I.

ON THE TOP.

MAJOR SAXIS.

IN THE MIDDLE,

THE THREE TRELLECH STONES,

Height above surface of the ground 14, 10, and 8 feet.

AT THE BOTTOM,

HIC FUIT VICTOR HARALD.

II.

The figure of the mound, or barrow of earth raised at this place.

O QUOT HIC SEPULTI?

III.

The chalybeate well of Trellech, formerly in great repute.

DOM. MAGD. PROBERT OSTENDIT.

ON THE DIAL,

EUNDO HORA DIEM DEPASSIT.

Surmounted by a fleur-de-lis,

Which confirms it was placed here by that lady, Sir George Probert bearing, 'parte per pale, three fleurs-des-lys' as borne by the ancient princes of Gwent or Monmouthshire.

It is particularly fortunate for the stranger, that the different objects to which the dial alludes are so near each other, as to admit of a cursory inspection, even while the carriage horses are taking water at the village inn.

I.—THE THREE STONES.

“In a pasture field a few hundred yards on, and immediately adjoining the turnpike road leading from Trellech to Chepstow, are three large stones from which the parish is said to derive its name, which have excited and still continue to attract the curiosity of the public. Mr. King, whose distinguished talents in this walk of learning are so well known to the public, thus mentions them in his interesting work, the “*MUNIMENTA ANTIQUA*,” under Monmouthshire.

“There are some great Pillars of Stone still remaining in this county, of such vast magnitude and distinction, and standing so remote from any *CIRCLES* of pillars, or heaps of stones, that they can only be concluded to be also memorials of great victories and events; although all knowledge of such victories and events is now perished. They are like the Pyramids of Egypt, records of the highest antiquity, in a dead language. Of this kind are the Three Great Stones, little known, but deserving much attention, standing near each other, in a field at Treleck, in Monmouthshire; in a manner which plainly indicates, that they did not form a part of any circle of stones. They are sometimes called by the inhabitants, ‘*HAROLD’S STONES*,’ BUT FOR WHAT REASON does not at all satisfactorily appear. Yet, from their vast bulk, and the immense labour required to remove them, they must have been designed to perpetuate the remembrance of some event, deemed at the time of the highest importance to an whole people.

Such are the sentiments of Mr. King—but Dr. Griffin, although he mentions them “apparently Druid,” always considered them as Druidical remains; yet, from their diagonal position it does not induce a belief that they formed part of a Cromlech, though he most undoubtedly was of that opinion. It is somewhat singular, that even the Village has not given a name to them.

They are of a pyramidal form, sloping towards the east, and measure as follows:

8ft.10in. high, by 2ft.18in. broad at the base.
 10ft.4in. high, by 2ft.9in. ditto
 14ft.2in. high, by 4 feet ditto

From the small space of ground they occupy, added to the quantity of stone with which the adjoining land is covered, there is just reason for thinking they will continue objects of curiosity to many succeeding generations.

II.—THE TUMULUS.

Is situate about one hundred yards to the S. W. of the church, in an orchard belonging to the Rumsey family, who for many years resided on their estate in this parish. It is inclosed within a deep ditch, and was some years ago planted with firs and other trees, by the then Mr. Rumsey, which are now in a very flourishing state. To gain the ascent with ease, a winding walk is cut round it, and on the top is erected a hall for conviviality, which has been taken down. The circle of the summit measures seventeen yards in diameter, which appears to have been lowered for the accommodation of the summer house that stood thereon.

Consistent with that opinion which Dr Griffin entertained of all the vestiges here under our notice, he considered this Mound as originating in, and devoted to Druidical purposes ; quoting at the same time, a like mound near the church at St. Weonard's, on the road leading from Monmouth to Hereford, as raised by the same people for the like ceremonies ; and not that either the one or the other had any reference to the exclamation, " OH, HOW MANY WERE HERE BURIED," to which circumstance, that is, to commemorate some great battle fought here by the Mercian Prince, the Latin inscriptions on the dial refer.

The situation of the place was compatible with such spots, as history tells the Druids se-

lected, for even it is left recorded by the people who died but very lately, "that the common was clothed with the finest Oak," a tree peculiarly devoted to Druidism.

There are several of these Tumuli in different parts of this county.

III.—THE WELL.

(MAXIMA FONTE.)

To which the inscription on the dial alludes, is situate near the carriage road leading to Tintern, and is supposed to run over a bed of iron ore in the common to which it adjoins. It is a chalybeate of a proper strength, and was formerly much frequented for its medicinal virtues, by persons from many miles distance; but it has since fallen into decay, and is now little used except by people in the neighbourhood.

A CELTIC AXE.

Mr. Watkins, a respectable inhabitant of the village, had in his possession a fine specimen of this instrument, whether he obtained it on Higga estate, near Trellech, in his occupation or otherwise, cannot now be known. It was placed on the chimney-piece of the kitchen, and as often as the candlesticks and brasses, its associates, received a polish, the weapon came in for its due share of attention, so that it became totally disrobed of the crust of time, and assumed an appearance nearly equal to that of burnished gold.

GOLD COIN.

A beautiful specimen of a large gold coin, of the reign of Edward III. was in the possession of a gentleman in the parish, which was found while ploughing a field near the village, as perfect and fresh as the day it was issued. The first regular coinage of large gold pieces took place in this reign, and they are so beautiful and rare, as to deserve the name of medals. The king is represented standing in a ship, crowned,

holding a sword upright in his hand, and a shield on his left, with the arms of France and England quarterly, the arms of France SEME-DE-LIS, three lions passant, and three fleur-de-lis upon the side of the ship. EDWAR. DEI GRA. REX ANGL. Z. FRANC. DNS. H. REVERSE—In a large rose, and from hence called a ROSE NOBLE, a cross fleuri with a fleur-de-lis at each point, and a lion passant under a crown in each quarter, the letter E in a rose in the centre. DOMINE IN FVRORE TVO ARGVAS ME. THE TRANSLATION—"Edward, by the grace of God, king of England and France, lord of Ireland." "Lord! rebuke me not in thine anger."

The Village of Trellech adjoins what was a very extensive tract of common land, (now enclosed) to the eastward of which is a fine eminence, called the Beacon, considered as the highest ground in Monmouthshire, from which are enjoyed the most varied and enchanting views of the surrounding district.

The whole of this common is more generally known by the name of Wye's Wood, from forming a lengthened shore to that river; and before the Inclosure Act took place, was intersected with a variety of walks, which shewed the country in almost every direction.

Trellech parish embraces a number of places, designated Whiteleigh, Maryland, Catbrook, Cleddon, Parkhouse or Purcas, Botany Bay, Narth, Manor side, Whitebrook, Nine Wells and Cecilyford.

From the brow of the hill at Cleddon, called the Shoots, we open upon a view of the Wye, with the parish church of Llandogo, new road, fine woods, orcharding, and pastures on its shores; while from a stand near the house, the stupendous cliffs at Llancaut, with the gorgeous Severn, backed by a rich part of Gloucestershire,

present another picture, on which the eye might long repose with pleasure.

At a short distance from Cleddon, on the opposite side of the turnpike road, is another beautiful spot called the NINE WELLS. Some lofty beech trees (since cut down) occupied the summit of this rising ground, under and near whose roots issue a number of small springs, to supply a cold bath below, built by the late Mr. James Hodges. Its waters, like those of the chalybeate well before mentioned, were much resorted to by invalids; but since Mr. Hodges's death, the bath has fallen into decay, and the premises inclosed within the allotments belonging to a late purchaser.

In the churchyard is an antique cross with a remarkable TOMB by its side, formed of two rudely carved stones supporting a massive slab.

In the village is an EARTHEN MOUND 450 feet in diameter, encircled by a moat and extensive entrenchments, probably of Roman formation, succeeded by a castle of the De Clares.

At a short distance from Trellech is another MOUND, called GRAIG-Y-DORTH, 60 paces round, and about six yards high: it is variously considered as a place of sepulture, and as a memorial of a battle fought on this spot between Henry IV and Owen Glendwr.

Trellech was at one time a place of much more importance than at present, as in the Court Rolls a distinction is made between the village, or town, which is always termed the Borough of Trellech, and the rest of the manor, which is always called the foreign. The tenants also, in what is called the borough, have particular privileges, and the lands within its bounds are all freeholds, while the greater part of the lands in the foreign

are copyholds. There is also great reason to believe that it once had fairs and markets.

The Charters granting extensive privileges to the inhabitants of this and the neighbouring parishes, and the long list of burgesses annexed to the Borough of Usk, corroborates the assertion."



Copp of the Lord Chancellor's Decree

Relative to WYE'S-WOOD CHASE,

From an old Document of 1581.

WHOMSOEVER ALL TRUE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE to whome this psent writing Indented of Award shall come The right honble. Sr. Thomas Bromley knt. Lord Chancellour of England, William Lord Burleigh Lord Treasurer of England and Sr. William Mildmay knt. Chancellour of Her Majesty's Court of Exchequer send greeting in ye Lord God everlasting. WHEREAS by an order taken in the Queen's Majesty's high Court of Chancery the tenth day of December last past before the date of these presents BETWEEN Walter Morgan Wolph and others Complainants and the Right honble. Henry Earle of Pembroke Defendant The matter in variance depending in the same Court of Chancery, between the said Complainants and Defendant was by the assents of the said parties committed to the heareing and determining of us the said Lord Chancellor, Lord Treasurer and Sir Walter Mildmay as by the same order more at large appeareth;

NOW KNOW YEE that we the said Lord Chancellor, Lord Treasurer and Sir Walter Mildmay, having thoroughly heard and examined the same cause and controversies and the allegations of the said parties doe by these presents by and with the consents of the said parties order and adjudge and award between the said parties in manner and forme following;

FIRST that the said Earle his heyres and assignes shall have hold and enjoy in severalty for ever, the Wood and ground comonly called or knowne by the name of the Old Parke which the Complainants pretend to be parcell of the florest or Chase of Wise-

wood; PROVIDED allwayes nevertheless that if it shall be thought good to Thomas Wiseman and Walter Morgan Wolph, esquires, at any tyme before the first day of December next, or upon theyr not agreeing therein, Then if it be soe thought good unto John Popham, esquire, her Majestyes Attorney genall, that any part of the same woods called the Old Parke shall be allotted to or for part of the Eighteen hundred Acres of Wood hereafter mentioned to be allotted to or for the said Complainants or in allowance of any part thereof, That then such part of the same Old Parke shall goe and be employed as they the said Thomas Wiseman and Walter Morgan Wolph or in theyr default as the said John Popham shall order or set downe. And that then also the said Earle his heyres and assignees to have soe much land and wood in recompense thereof in the said woods called Wisewood out of the said Eighteen hundred acres to be allotted to the said Complainants as the said Thomas Wiseman and Walter Morgan Wolph or in theyr default as the said John Popham shall order or sett downe.

AND wee doe alsoe order and award that the said Thomas Wiseman and Walter Morgan Wolph shall appoint and set forth unto the said Complainants Eighteen hundred acres of wood and woodground out of the said Wood and Woodgrounds called Glascoed, Gwehelwg and Wisewood in the Bill of Complaint and answer of the said partyes remaining of Record in the said Court of Chancery menconed (that is to say) Six hundred and threescore acres out of the said Wood called Glascoed and Gwehellock and Eleven hundred and forty acres out of the said Wood called Wisewood in such places of the said Woods as unto them by theyr good discretions shall be thought most fitt and Convenient:

ITEM wee doe further order that the said Complainants and theyr heyres and other the Ressciants within the said Lordshippes shall and may have and enjoy for ever within the said 1800 acres soe to be set forth as aforesaid the severall profitts hereafter menconed (that is to say) convenient Estovers (vizt) fireboot ploughbote housebote and hedgebote and all other Estovers to be spent upon the said severall Tenements within the said Lordshippes and Malnors in the said Bill and answer menconed; And alsoe that the said Complainants and theyr heyres and

Ressciants aforesaid shall have the pawnage and herbage of the said 1800 acres of wood and wood-grounds and shall alsoe have digge and take lime stones for gooding theyr grounds, Wall stones to build and repayre theyr houses and other necessary Roomes Slatestones for covering theyr houses within the said 1800 acres and shall alsoe have free liberty to make and erect Lyme-Kills upon the said 1800 acres for the burning of the said Lyme Stones and for building and for lymeing the grounds of the said severall Tenements.

AND that within the said 1800 acres the said Earle and his heyres and assignes and all others clayming any estate of inheritance in any of the said Lordships from by or under William late Earle of Pembroke deceased father unto the said now Earle shalbe for ever excluded to take any manner of profitts (except Waifs Strayes felons goods and other profitts that shall arise and come by reason of the libertyes and ffranchises of the said Earle in the premises. And except such amerciaments as shall hereafter be sett upon any the Tennants and Inhabitants of the said Mannors Lordships parishes or Townships for using any of the same profitts to them assigned contrary to the true intent and meaneing of this present order and Award ;

ITEM wee doe further by theise presents order and award that the said Earle and his heyres shall have hold and enjoy for ever All the said Woods and wood grounds called Glascoed Gwehellocke and Wisewood in severalty saveing the said 1800 acres. And that the said Earle and his heyres and assignes shall or may at his and theyr will and pleasure enclose have hold and enjoy in severalty all the said Woods and wood grounds called Glascoed Gwehellocke and Wisewood (except the said 1800 acres). PROVIDED allwayes ye full meaneing order and award is that this present article nor any thing therein contained shall in any wise extend but to such woods and woody grounds of Glascoed Gwehellocke and Wisewood where wood both now grow or heretofore hath growne and been cutt downe or spoyled by any the Complainants and Defendant or any of them and not to any the other Wasts within the said woods.

ITEM wee doe further order and award that the said Thomas Wiseman and Walter Morgan Wolph shall appoynt measure and sett forth out of the said 1800

acres before menconed in severalty unto every severall township or parish within the said Lordships and Mannors • • • quantity of wood and wood ground to use the said severall profitts therein the one in severalty from the other as by theyr good discretions shall be thought convenient and necessary for every of the said townships or parishes, lordships and manories. And if they shall not agree in setting forth thereof before the first day of December now next ensueing That then the said John Popham esq. Her Majesty's attorney genall. shall by his good discretion doe the same at his convenient leisure

ITEM wee doe further order and award by theise presents that the tenants of the said Lordships or Mannors shall appoint or nominate Two sufficient persons of every parish to be the Woodwardes for the said severall parishes and for the tenants and Inhabitants thereof for such part of the said woods as shall be assigned to that Townshipp or parish, which said Woodwardes shalbe chosen yeerly at the Leet holden next after the feast of St. Michaell the archangell and shall in the same Court take theyr corporall Oathes before the Steward there faithfully and truly to execute their said office and those things which shall apperteyne to their charge, and truly to present the Defaults of such as shall not observe this order And the said Woodwardes shall yeerly from time to time appoint what part of the said woods shalbe felled and cutt downe for the use of the said severall Townships or parishes having such regard in rateing the quantity thereof as after that rate the fellett thereof may by good preservation have continuance for ever; And the said Woodwardes shall alsoe after the felling of the same woods at the charges of the said severall Townships or parishes cause the same woods and the Standells therein to be left to be inclosed and preserved according to the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme in that behalfe provided:

ITEM wee the said Lord Chancellour Lord Treasurer and Sir Walter Mildmay doe further order adjudge and award by theise presents that if any of the Tennants or theyr heyres or any Inhabitants within the said Mannors Lordships parishes or Townships shall hereafter at any tyme breake or infringe any part of this order or shall make spoyle of the said woods or any part thereof contrary to the true intent and meaneing hereof; That then such person and

persons soe offending shall be amerced at the Court of the said Earle to be holden within the said Mannors and Lordships according to the quality of his or their offence :

AND wee doe further order and award by theise presents That the said Earle of Pembroke and his heyres and assignes shall have and enjoy for ever one fourth part of all the residue of the Wasts and Commons situat lying and being aswell within the rest of the fforrest or chase of Wisewood Glascoed and Gwehellog as elsewhere within the said Mannors and Lcrdships of Uske Treleeck and Carlion to be inclosed improved and used in severalty by the said Earle his heyres and assignes for ever ;

AND that the ffreeholders Customary Tennants and Tennants by Coppy of Court Roll of the said Mannors or Lordships shall have the other three parts and residue of the Wasts and Commons to be divided as aforesaid to be used and occupied in Comon by and amongst them, to take therein Limestone Slatestone and Wallstone and other the profitts aforesaid for ever without any thing therein be claymed or any improvement thereof or of any part thereof hereafter at any tyme to be made by the said Earle his heyres or assignes ; Except onely waiefs strayes ffellons goods and such other ff ranchises libertyes and preheminences as are before reserved unto the said Earle and his heaves out of the said 1800 acres as is aforesaid. IN WITNESS whereof wee the said Lord Chancellour, Lord Treasurer and Sir Walter Mildmay have to each part of theise presents sett our seales geoven the 18th day of December 1581 in the 24th yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lady Elizabeth by the græce of God of England Firance and Ieland Queen Defender of the ffaith &c.

T. Bromley, junr. W. Burleigh, Wa. Mildmay.
(Seale.) (Seale.) (Seale.)

Edward Dyer, } Ex pte Comit
Tho : Wiseman, } Pembroke virtute
 } warrant. . .

W. Morgan Wolph.



BURGESSES of USK, Enrolled August 4, 1747

William Nicholls, of Penalt	John Gamson, Monkwood
John Davies, of Penalt	Lewis Richards, of Gwllwg
James Grace, of Penalt	Richard Williams, of Trelleg
James Davis, of Penalt	Henry Morgan, of Trelleg
Moses Rowens, of Penalt	John Morris, of Trelleg
James Williams, of Penalt	John Moxley, of Trelleg
Philip Austin, of Penalt	Robert Vaughan, of Trelleg
Hezekiah Hopkins, of Cardiff	Herbert Jones, of Trelleg
William Roberts, of Cardiff	William Williams, of Trelleg
John Evans, of Penalt	Charles Hughes, of Trelleg
William Edwards, of Penalt	Oliver Luff, of Trelleg
James Roberts, of Penalt	John Gwln, of Trelleg
Edward Thomas, of Penalt	Thomas Lewis, of Trelleg
Thomas Rowland, of Penalt	Christoph. Davies, of Trelleg
Thomas Dixon, of Penalt	David Hughes, of Trelleg
John Davies, of Penalt	Richard Spencer, of Trelleg
Rees Vaughan, Leckwith, Gla.	William Jones, of Trelleg
Thomas Turner, of Cardiff	David Williams, of Trelleg
George Williams, of Penalt	Charles Howell, of Trelleg
Aaron David, of Penalt	Morgan Pritchard, of Trelleg
William Pritchard of Penalt	John Rosser, of Trelleg
John Richards, of Penalt	Thomas Gwln, of Trelleg
John Parry, of Penalt	John Davis, of Trelleg
John Jones, of Penalt	John Griffiths, of Penalt
William Morgan, of Cardiff	Phillip Roberts, of Penalt
James Owen, of Cardiff	Griffith Griffiths, of Penalt
Edward Morgan, of Cardiff	Thomas Dixon, of Penalt
Richard Powell, of Cardiff	William Richards, of Penalt
Evan Williams, of Leekwith	William Thomas, of Penalt
John Lewis, of Leekwith	Thomas Lewis, of Penalt
Morgan Dowall, of Leekwith	Isaac Richards, of Penalt
John Pritchard, of Leekwith	John Thomas, of Penalt
Edward Lambert, of Cardiff	William Watkins, of Penalt
John Whiting, of Cardiff	Thomas Young, of Penalt
Henry Yeomans, of Cardiff	John Arthur, of Penalt
Arthur Tanner, of Cardiff	John James, of Penalt
Arthur Williams, of Cardiff	Philip Watkins, of Penalt
Thomas Stephens, of Cardiff	Philip Young, of Penalt
Moses Morgan, of Cardiff	George Kinstone, of Penalt
Ralph Bowen, of Cardiff	Richard Jones, of Penalt
William Lewis, Gwernesney	Thomas Austen, of Penalt
Benjamin Ambrose, of Uske	William Jones, of Penalt
Phillip Major, of Usk	William Austin, of Penalt
William Williams, of Penalt	John Morris, of Penalt
John Williams, of Panteague	Edward Williams, of Penalt
Philip Cadogan, of Landenny	John Jones, of Penalt
Wm. Williams, of Gwehelog	George Williams, of Penalt
John Davies, of Gwehelog	Jacob Rosser, of Cardiff
Roger Williams, of Glascoed	Thomas Austin, of Cardiff
Wm. Morgan, of Gwehelog	Francis Bowen, of Cardiff
Henry Francis, of Llanbadoc	Jas. Edwards, jun. of Penalt
Wm Jones, of Llanbuddock	John Martin, of Penalt
Thomas Rees, of Llanbadoc	James Martin, of Penalt
And. Pritchard, Monkwood	William Lewis, of Penalt
Wm. Morgan, of Monkwood	

INCLOSING WYE'S WOOD.

“Somewhat more than a century past, an attempt was made by the then Viscount Windsor, Lord of the Manor, to hein in a considerable portion of this land, which was marked out, and a number of workmen daily employed in digging a deep trench around it ; but the labour was carried on under such a strong opposition from the whole of the parish, who considered it as an infringement of their privileges, that his lordship, though he had nearly accomplished the fence, thought proper rather to apply to Chancery for the support of his claim, than further it by open hostility ; when a decree of that court allotted a certain quantity of the coppice woods to his lordship, reserving to the parish the right of pasture and herbage of the soil ; by which decision all disputes were amicably arranged and settled.

In the year 1810, an Act was passed for inclosing lands in the several parishes of Trellech, Penalt, Mitchel-Troy, Cwmcarvon, Landogo, Tintern, and Lanishen ; in consequence of which, the extensive district, consisting of near 5,000 acres, has been partly allotted and inclosed, and exhibits, in many places, the exertion and skill of the agriculturalists.

The communication with the surrounding neighbourhood requiring roads to be kept open, the Act has provided clauses for that purpose ; so that the beautiful POINTS which have been before noticed, are still left open for the traveller's investigation.

This fine common was a valuable nursery for stock, to those who lived on, or had premises near it, quantities of horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and geese, being pastured thereon, without control of number ; and the wool produced from the sheep on this chase, sold at as high a price as any fleece at our annual mart.

Mr. Job Williams, of Cledden, had a flock of seventy goats. Many others kept from ten to the same number, which in part furnished them with milk and cheese for their families. The produce of five goats being estimated equal to that of a cow. But owing to the injury done by these animals, in browsing the coppice wood, which was privileged to them before the Inclosure Act took place, they have since been taken away or destroyed."—CHARLES HEATH.

"The Bilberry or Whortleberry (*Vaccinium Myrtillus*) called by the people of the district, 'Wimberry,' on which the Moor Game fed, used to grow abundantly here, which fruit the cottagers gathered, and found a ready sale, in the markets of Chepstow and Monmouth, but the inclosure and cultivation of the lands have considerably diminished the supply.

It deserves notice, that where the gorse and fern have been burnt, previous to clearing the land for agricultural or other purposes, if left in that state for a short time, the winberry springs up and flourishes in the most luxurious manner.

The Parish Church makes no appearance as a near object, but when viewed from any of the adjoining heights, surrounded as it is by the straggling cottages of the village, it happily fills up the centre of the vale in which it is placed.

There are no monuments within its walls to claim the stranger's notice. The interior was heretofore ill suited for the accommodation of its parishioners when assembled at public worship, which occasioned those presiding over their local interest, to raise the sum of £600 for new pewing, and also adding 300 free seats for the poor. The 23rd of August, 1827, was fixed for the re-opening the church for divine service, when a sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Sumner, bishop of Llandaff, (afterwards of

Winchester), in aid of the fund, and at the close of the service the collection amounted to £45 of which £20 were given by the learned prelate. then residing at Llansantffraed, near Abergavenny. The Living, which is a Vicarage united with Penalt, is in the gift of the Crown.

Leaving the inn, we proceed down the village and making an abrupt turn to the left, enter on the new line of communication from hence to Tintern.

Passing the "Chalybeate Well," and gaining the short but easy ascent, the scenery of the common spreads itself before us ; but. as the road is carried through the vale, it does not present such rich features as those that disclose themselves from the higher situations.

A few acres to the right supply the near inhabitants with peat, which they cut and dry for fuel ; but it is only used by those whose means do not enable them to procure a regular supply of coal from Monmouth or Chepstow.

Within a mile, to the s. e. of Trelleck, is the Hill above the Purcas, which particularly merits the traveller's attention. It extends for a considerable length, the summit formed by a ridge of huge lumpish stones, which lie scattered about it from one extremity to the other. On the edge of this rise is a fine velvet turf, from whence we overlook as we move along it, a great variety of country ; particularly at the farther part of it, where a most inviting seat holds forth its accommodation for the visitor to rest on, and enjoy at his ease the luxury of the prospect that spreads itself around him. It may justly be called A Graud Coach Box, from its similarity to that part of a carriage ; being composed of a solid piece of stone two yards long, fronted by another of equal size and extent, that forms what may be termed a foot board ; the whole so

perfect and complete as if placed by the hands of the "Genius of the Spot," for the stranger to survey the glorious prospect that here claims his attention. We look down on a pleasing tract of land called Trelleck Grange formerly the corn land belonging to Tintern Abbey ; and carrying the eye further on, an equally rich and varied district spreads itself before us, terminated by lofty eminences, that give such an admirable finish to the landscapes of this county. The opposite view is composed of a large portion of the Forest of Dean and other parts of the county of Gloucester."—HEATH.

The following document in connection with Wyewood, at Trelleck, was dated by Richard Duke of York (Father of Edward IV.), from his "Castle at Uske," in 1436, about 452 years ago.

By an indenture of the 8th of July, in the 14th year of our dread sovereign lord King Henry VI., between the high and mighty prince Richard Duke of York, earl of Marche and Ulster, lord of Wigmore and of Clare, on the one part, John ap Howell ap Jenkin, of Pantyglas, one of the gentlemeu ushers of the chamber, on the other part :—

"The aforesaid Richard Duke of York grants to the said John ap Howell, and his heirs for evermore, the office of master forester and keeper of the forest and chase called Wye's Wood, lying within the lordship of Trellick—parcel of the earldom of Marche," and with other privileges "he gives to John ap Howell, and his heirs yearly, two staggs in summer and two hinds in winter within the aforesaid chase and purlieus of the same ; and two wild boars, and one shoulder and the nombles of the same, and of every deer slain within the said chase in their own persons,—and then the said shoulders and nombles to be at their dispositions and commandments : but if the said John ap Howell or his heirs kill or slay any red deer, more than is before rehearsed, he or they shall forfeit ten shillings sterling for every such deer. And he

grants to the said John ap Howell, the right shoulder of all manner of wild cattle within the said chase, and liberties of the same; which liberties and bounds extend from the highway leading from Devauden,—in length towards Monmouth, and in breadth to the river Wye. But if the said Duke or his heirs shall fortune to come and hunt within the said chase, the said John ap Howell and his heirs shall have two broad arrows ready headed, and sufficient force for him or his heirs to shoot at the deer at his own proper costs, and shall keep, to the best of his power, all eyries of hawks and breeding of bees." In witness, &c., the said Richard Duke of York, in the sight and presence of Sir William Thomas, Knight, steward of his lands; Thomas Whitegrove, chancellor; and James Welche, esq., has put to his seal."

In the charter to Tintern Abbey, this parish is particularly mentioned as the "Land of the Men of Trelleck," which extends to or joins with their own at Tintern. It may also be mentioned that within two miles was their farm called TRELLECK GRANGE.

Before the present carriage lines were laid down, the road was carried over the Devauden Common,—and at the top of Chepstow Park, near St. Arvans, the view embraced the grand scenery as disclosed from the enchanting Wind-cliff.

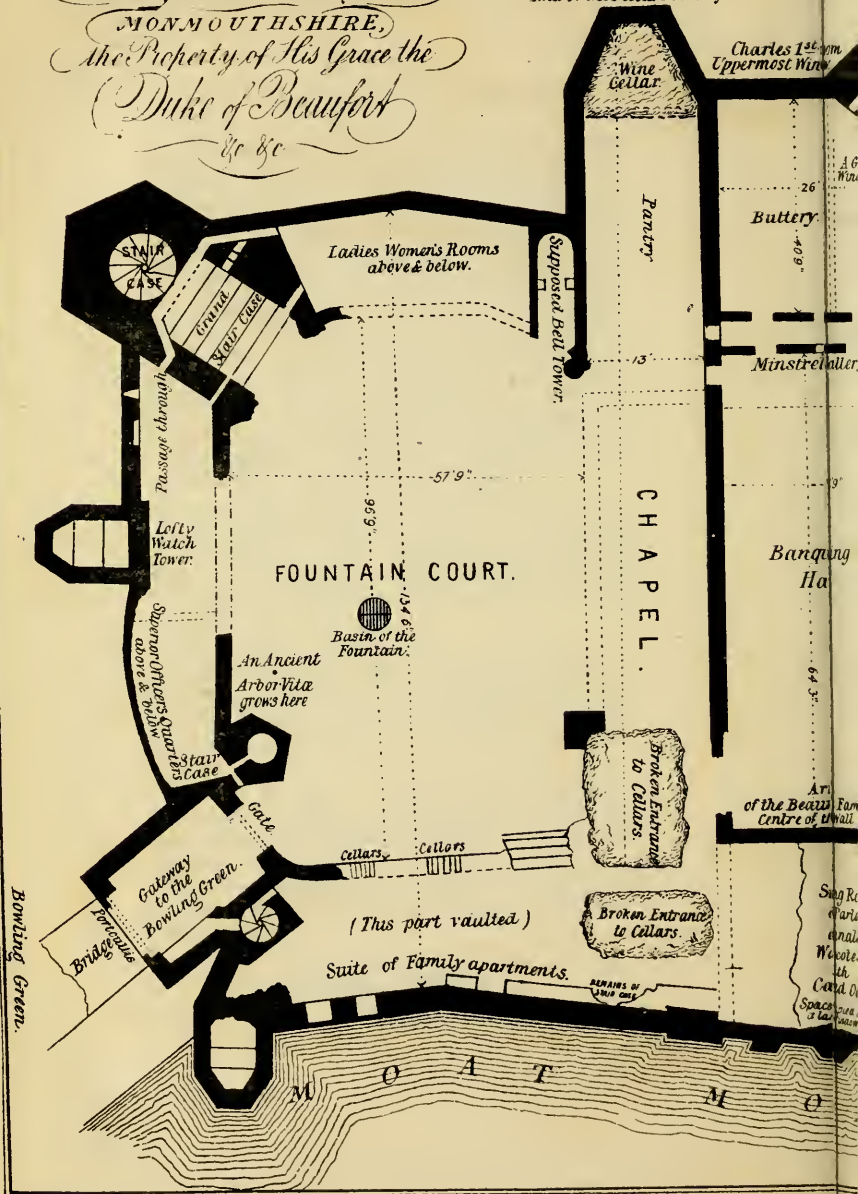
Leaving Cleddon on the left, and the Nine Wells on the right, we continue our cheerful course on this road, it being an uninterrupted descent to Tintern.

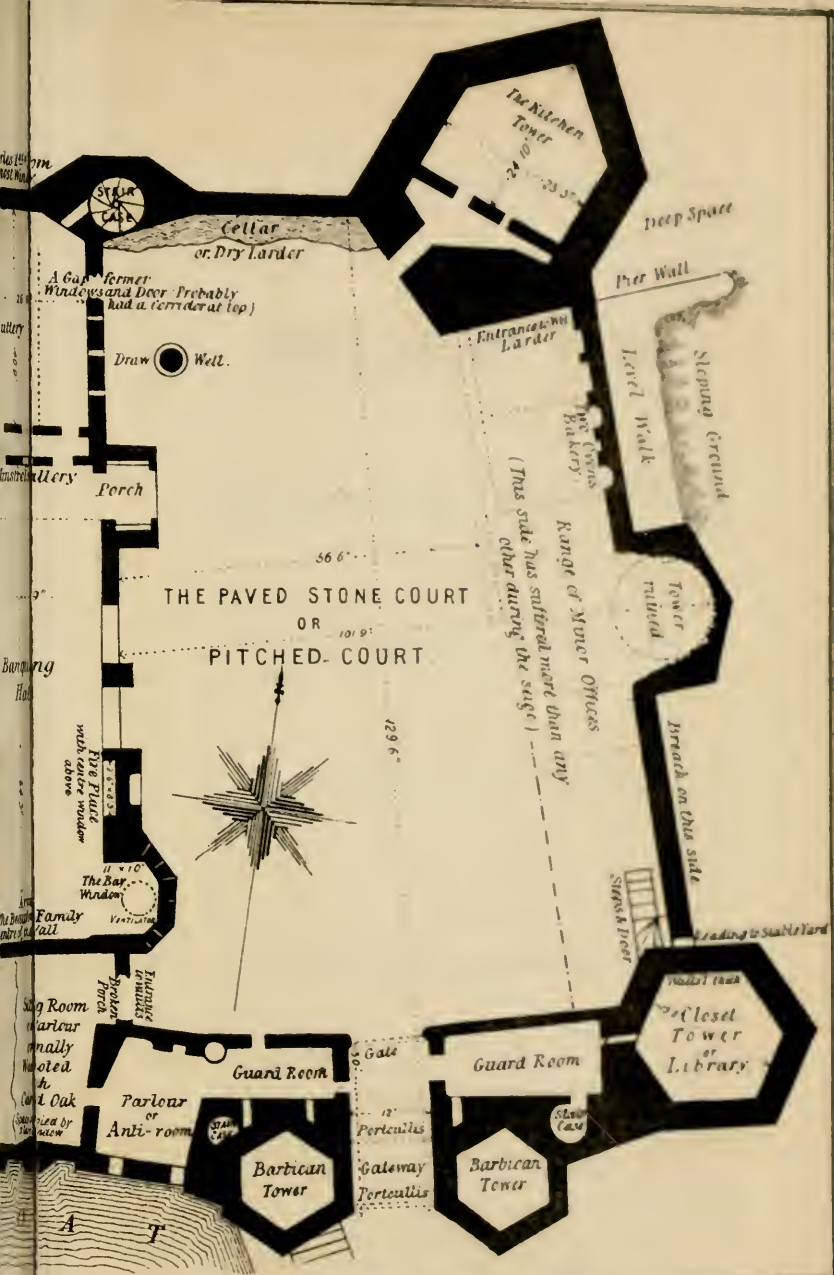
The moor game were formerly found here, but to the regret of the sportsman, have been totally destroyed.



PLAN OF *Raglan Castle.* MONMOUTHSHIRE, *the Property of His Grace the* *Duke of Beaufort* *&c &c*

End of the Picture Gallery.





DESCRIPTION

OF THE

Magnificent Ruins

OF

RAGLAN CASTLE.

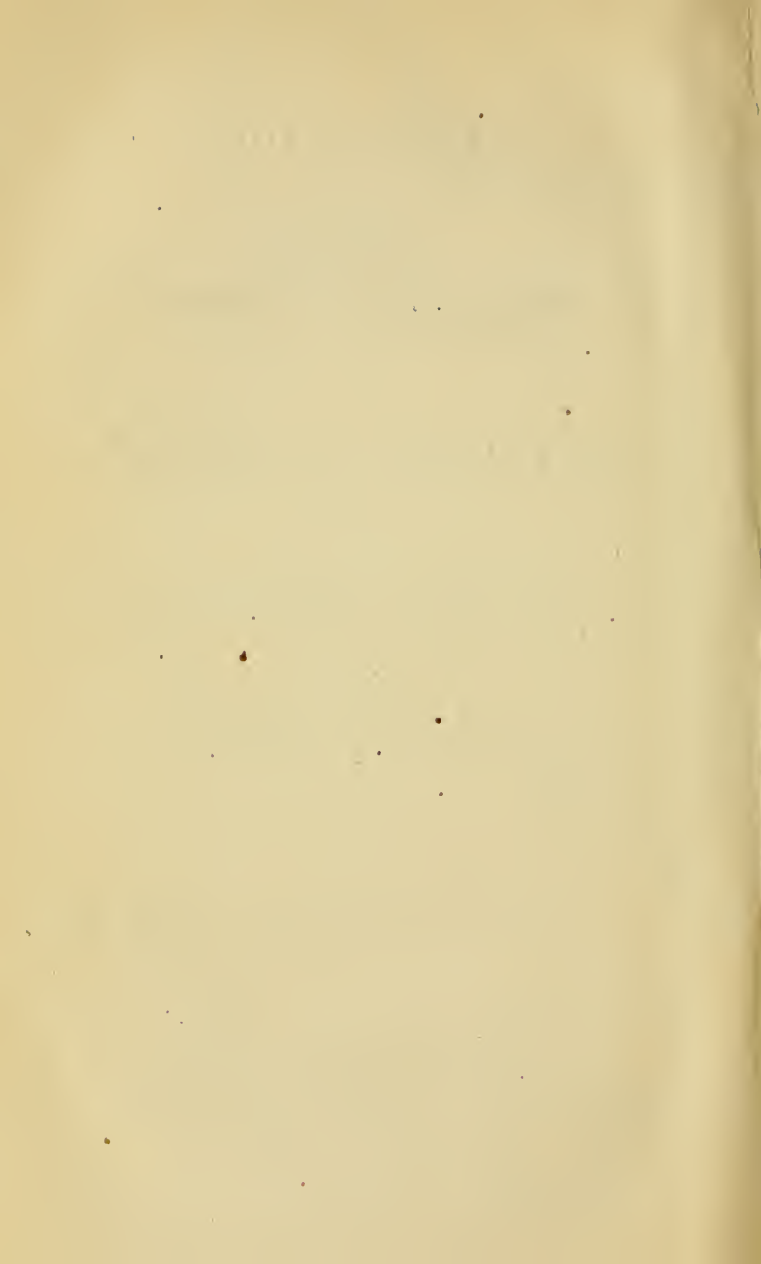
WITH PLAN OF THE STRUCTURE.

Compiled by J. H. CLARK.

USK :

PRINTED AT THE "COUNTY OBSERVER" OFFICE.

SIXPENCE.



RAGLAN CASTLE.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

THE EARLIEST account we have of RAGLAN is that the family of Clare possessed a castle here in the twelfth century; and in the family history we are told that Sir John Morley, a military knight, who lived in the time of Richard II. (1377 to 1399), resided here as the "Lord of Raglan Castle." Other authorities trace the name of the founder to Sir William ap Thomas, son of Gwillim ap Thomas ap Jenkin, by his wife, Maud, daughter and heiress of Sir John Morley, knight, Lord of Raglan Castle. Grose places Raglan Castle among the strongholds erected in the time of Henry VII. (1485 to 1509.) But these remarks can have reference only to those portions of the castle which are comparatively modern; the Citadel, or Yellow Tower of Gwent, is unquestionably of older date. Of the old military lords of Raglan but little account has descended to us, the antiquary, however, can with certainty discover traces of architecture in the structure as far distant as Henry V. (1413 to 1422), and many of the towers display styles during every subsequent reign down to Charles I. (1625 to 1649), with whose unhappy career it is intimately associated.

In the time of Henry VIII., as Leland informs us, Raglan, "yn Middle Venceland, was a fair and pleasant castel, with to goodlyo parkes adjacent:" and "the laste Lord Herbert," as Morgan told him, "builled all the best coffes of the castle of Raglan." Camden, in his account of the Silures, or Monmouthshire, notices it very briefly as a "fair house of the Earl of Worcester, built castel-like." Dugdale, in his *Baronetage*, and Smythe, in his *MS. Lives of the Berkeleys*, say:—"Richard Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Chepstow (who died 1177), gave the domains and castle of Raglan to Sir Walter Bloet, in consideration of soldiers, money, and arms furnished by him for the expedition to Ireland, of which Strongbow was the leader, whose descendant, Sir John Bloet (*temp.* Henry IV.), gave his only daughter and heiress, Isabel, in marriage to Sir James Berkeley; he disposed of it to Sir William ap Thomas, who married Gladys, daughter of Sir David Gam, of Old Court, in this county, who, with his father-in-law, fell at the Battle of Agincourt, in defending the person of Henry V., and were knighted on the field whilst in the agonies of death.

William Herbert, son of Sir William ap Thomas, was created Earl of Pembroke, and Lord of Chepstow and Raglan. Edward IV. entrusted him with the custody of the Earl of Richmond (afterwards Henry VII.), who was detained for some time in

the castle of Raglan. The Earl of Pembroke, owner of this castle in 1469, raised an army of Welshmen in favour of Edward IV. against the Lancastrians, under the command of the Earl of Warwick. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Dane's Moor, and was beheaded at Banbury.

William, eldest son of this unfortunate nobleman, succeeded to the Earldom of Pembroke. He married Mary, sister of Woodville, Earl Rivers, by whom he had an only daughter, Elizabeth. She married Sir Charles Somerset, and in her right in 1506 he possessed the castle, and bore the title of Lord Herbert of Raglan, and in 1514 was raised to the dignity of Earl of Worcester. He was succeeded by his son, Henry, second Earl, whose son, William, became third Earl. He died in 1587, and was buried at Raglan. Edward, his son, succeeded him. 'In his youth this Earl was the best horseman and tilter of his times.' He died in the seventy-ninth year of his age, and was buried at Raglan. He was succeeded by his son, Henry Somerset, fifth Earl, in 1628, who married Ann, daughter of Lord John Russell, and was created Marquis of Worcester in 1642. This nobleman was a great supporter of Charles I., and Raglan was the last castle that held out for the unfortunate monarch.

The first summons to surrender the castle was received by the garrison with indignation. Colonel Morgan soon after advanced from Worcester at the head of a formidable force, and drawing up his troops before Raglan, on the 3rd of June, 1646, summoned the garrison to surrender; but the veteran Marquis refused to yield without the consent of the King. On the 7th of August, Sir Thomas Fairfax arrived from Bath, to undertake the siege in person, making his residence at Cefntilla, a garrisoned farm-house, about three miles distant from Raglan. Several communications afterwards passed between the Marquis and Sir Thomas, but no treaty was entered into. On the 14th of August, 1646, Sir Thomas ordered a new approach, which Captain Hooper, the engineer, proceeded to throw up. The Marquis's case now became desperate; his garrison, which first consisted of eight hundred men, had been reduced to half that number, and a breach having been made in the walls, immediately adjoining the Closet Tower, a final treaty was agreed upon, which took place on the 15th of August, and on the 17th the treaty was concluded and signed. On the 19th the Castle was surrendered to the Parliamentary general."



THE RUINS OF THE CASTLE.

THE ruins of the Castle stand about a quarter of a mile from the village of Raglan, on a hill formerly called *Twyn-y-Cevios*, or the *Cherry Tump*. After leaving the village, the approach to the castle by a steep ascent, you reach the *Outer Mount*, where the *Drawbridge* and *First Gate* formerly stood, passing which, at the distance of a hundred and eighty feet, you arrive at the *White Gate*, now in the form of a portecullis, between two embattled pillars of stone. It was formerly approached by a flight of steps, of which very little remains. You pass through this gate, and enter upon a neatly kept, and well-rolled *Lawn*, about a hundred and fifty feet in length.

“Stranger! ponder here awhile;
 Pause in *Raglan's* ruined pile:
 All that wealth and power combined,
 With skill to plan, and taste refined,
 To rear a structure fit to be
 The home of England's chivalry.
 Was lavished here!—where, met in hall,
 Mailed barons kept their festival—
 The night in lordly wassail spent—
 The day in tilt and tournament;
 Yet still, when England's woes began,
 Were first to arm and lead the van;
 To shield the Monarch in his need—
 In Freedom's glorious cause to bleed;
 To loyalty surrendering all—
 Then with their falling King to fall.”

At the extremity of this beautiful lawn stands the

Grand Entrance.

It is between two magnificent pentagonal and machicolated towers. The towers are conjoined over the gateway by two arches, one above the other, with the grooves remaining down which the portecullis dropped on each side, with an entrance gate between them

There are four arched rooms in each of these towers, which were undoubtedly used by the *Warder* and his inferior officers. Passing under the arch, on the right and left were the rooms occupied by the garrison, now roofless, and beyond the guard room on the right is

The Closet Tower, or Library.

This, like the other two towers at the entrance, has three arched rooms, eighteen feet in the clear each way. The lower room is comfortably fitted up, and has a large display of photographic views, guide books, and a book in which visitors place their autographs, arranged upon a table. Over this is an octagon room, with concave roof, which is denominated the *Echoing room*, from the reverberation, consequent upon its form, occasioned by the slightest sound. Beyond the guard room on the left are

The Officers' Apartments

facing the moat, which were destroyed by the cannons of the besiegers.

Passing under the archway, you enter upon what was once the

Mosaic Paved Court.

This court is a hundred and twenty nine feet six inches long, and fifty-six feet six inches broad; and here was the *paradé* ground, which at the time of the siege resounded with the clangour from the martial tread of the armed warrior—here the men-at-arms assembled to participate in military fetes—here war-like preparations were made. It is now covered with a verdant sod, from which rises an arbor-vitæ of funereal aspect, and an aged ash whose branches afford a welcome shade at mid-day to a rustic seat: whilst the walls which encompass the court are richly festooned with ivy.

"Round the old Castle wall will the ivy branch climb,
 More firmly as seasons shall roll,
 And so should affection be strengthened by time,
 Still binding more closely the soul:
 And thus when the summer of life shall depart,
 And winter come chilly and bare;
 The smile of affection will gladden the heart,
 And bloom still an evergreen there."

Immediately on the right, and adjoining the *Chapel Tower*, the walls are much dilapidated, having suffered severely during the siege, and the minor range of offices are entirely demolished. It was here the Parliamentary forces effected the *breach* which hastened the surrender of the castle. At the extremity of the court, and nearly opposite the portal, is an archway leading to

The Kitchen Tower,

of pentagonal shape, projecting beyond the walls northward, each side twenty-five feet broad, and of great solidity and strength. The *Kitchen* was twenty-four feet in the clear, and nearly twenty feet high. In an adjoining office is a large fire-place, the arch of which is thirteen feet in the span, and is formed by two massive stones, and contiguous thereto is a boiler of modern construction. Above the kitchen was a room of equal size, and underneath it is a room denominated the *Wet Larder*, which may be reached by a subterranean passage. From the kitchen a passage formerly led to the *Buttery*, with a hatch through which the dishes were passed to the Banqueting Hall, and there was an entrance from the passage to

The Parlour,

an apartment which measured forty-nine feet in length by twenty-one in breadth, with an opening at the east-end into a narrow cross passage. This room was noted for its inlaid wainscoting and curiously carved figures, as also for the stone-work of a flat

arch in a large window on the south side, beaten down by the besiegers. There was a large window at each end, but the one side only remains. At the entrance to the parlour on the right were the stairs to the

Dining and Drawing Rooms,

which were directly over and of the same dimensions as the parlour. From the cross passage you enter

The Baronial or Banqueting-Hall,

upwards of sixty-four feet three inches long, and twenty-eight feet broad, which occupies the interval between the two inner courts. The hall shows majestic proportions, and the fire-place is ten feet wide and eight feet high. The great bay window in the upper part of the room is a most interesting object to the visitor of taste, and the stone frames would not be considered inelegant in the present day. The baron's table stood across the upper part of the hall opposite this window, and the two tables for his retainers were arranged down the sides of the hall. The stone-sculptured arms of the Marquisite of Worcester, surrounded with the Garter, and bearing the motto of the Beaufort family, *Mutare vel timere sperno*—"I scorn to change or fear,"—now nearly obliterated, stands in the wall at the top of the hall over the baronial table. This noble badge was an offensive object to the republicans, and the arms were probably defaced by the rebel soldiery. "The geometrical *Roof* which once covered this noble hall was built of Irish oak, with the cupola in the centre, glazed with painted glass, through which streamed a flood of light tintured with prismatic hues." The roof was nicely adjusted, elaborately carved, and light and airy in appearance. It rested on the corbel heads which are still seen in the walls. At the lower end

of the hall was erected a *Gallery* or *Orchestra*, and underneath a door led to the passage and *Buttery Hatch*, forty feet nine inches by twenty, in which was a large window for handing in the dishes instead of entering the hall; and adjoining thereto was the *Pantry*, of nearly equal size. Opposite the door leading from the upper end of the hall on the south side was the range of apartments before mentioned used by the superior officers of the garrison, and suite of family apartments; these were destroyed during the siege by the enemy's guns, so that the area on which they stood is now confounded with the Fountain Court. Underneath these rooms were vaulted cellars. These subterraneous vaults are of vast extent, and in times of danger, particularly during the siege, probably served the purposes of cellars, store-houses, larders, and magazines for depositing muniments of war, as well as provisions for the household and garrison. The buildings on the north-eastern part of the court were utterly destroyed by the cannon of the besiegers, being in a direct line with the principal entrance; their foundations, however, may still be traced.

The Fountain Court.

From the hall a door led into the *Fountain Court*, ninety-six feet nine inches by fifty-seven feet nine inches, in the centre of which was formerly a pedestal in a marble basin, and a statue of a white horse. These constituted a fountain, from which flowed, in fantastic forms, a stream of water, but all remains of the ornament are buried beneath the sod. The water which supplied the fountain was brought at great expense from the neighbouring hills, and afterwards conveyed to the fish-ponds. The pipes have been ploughed up in the fields adjoining the castle, and

very little trace of them are remaining. Parallel with the Banqueting-hall, was a narrow structure termed

The Baronial Chapel.

The vestiges of it that remain convey no distinct idea of its style. In a line with the Chapel was a staircase leading to what is traditionally said to have been the

State Apartments of Charles I.

also, to the *Picture Gallery*; but as no trace of the staircase is left, the spot is at present reached by passing through the Grand Portal and up the staircase, on the opposite side of the Court, and after ascending a flight of steps, turning to the right along the ramparts; but were it not for the wooden platform erected to facilitate the visitor's progress, it would be impracticable to reach them. The light and elegant stone window here was a spot to which the king often resorted, on account of the delightful prospect over the adjoining country.

“ Under the stairs, leading to these apartments was the way to the *Beer Cellar*, forty-nine and a half feet long and fifteen feet broad; then to the *Wine Cellar*, forty-three and a half feet long and sixteen and a half feet broad. There are three cellars more, one as large as the former, all well arched.—*Old MS.*

Returning to the top of the flight of steps, a passage along the ramparts to the left leads to the

Watch Tower,

from which very extensive views are obtained, and seats are arranged for the accommodation of visitors.

The Citadel, or Keep Tower,

was here joined to the castle by a sumptuous arched bridge, to which there must have been attached a portal; but these are gone, and nothing but a dismantled wall, commanding a view across the moat into the interior of the ruined citadel, remains.

On the opposite corner of the court is a small tower, crowning an archway and portal which leads over a bridge to the

Grand Terrace and Bowling-Green :

a beautiful platform, carpetted with velvet grass, raised twelve feet above the walk surrounding the moat, and extending two hundred and sixty feet in length, and twenty-seven in breadth. The views from the terrace are now considerably obstructed by the tall trees of the avenue surrounding the castle. This spot was once adorned with arbours and fountains, and overlooked extensive fish-ponds bounded by plantations. It is said to have been a favourite retreat of the king, on whose account all the treasures collected here were ruthlessly devastated and despoiled.

Having now conducted the visitor over every portion of the interior of the castle, we return to the Grand Entrance, and descend a few steps on the right to the rustic bridge which crosses the moat, and leads to

The Yellow Tower of Gwent.

This high and massive hexagonal structure forms the *Citadel* or *Donjon Tower* of the fortress, and for strength, height, and workmanship surpassed most, if not all, of the towers in England or Wales. Its sides were each thirty-two feet wide and ten thick, built of square stone, and in height five stories. Its battlements were so symmetrical and so compactly set that they appeared as if cut out of a solid block, but being only eight inches thick, they were soon demolished by the batteries directed against the tower by Sir Thomas Fairfax ; but his heaviest guns, discharging twenty pound shot, took no more effect on the body of the tower than if they had been discharged

against a rock. The tower communicated with the castle by means of an elegant arched bridge, encircled by an outer wall with six arched and embattled turrets, built of square stone, adjoining which was a deep moat, thirty feet broad, and supplied by a clear running stream, from which the *Water Works* threw their glittering spray to the height of the tower. Among the embellishments to the castle these water works (planned and brought to perfection by the Marquis and his accomplished son, Lord Herbert) were on a most ingenious and extensive scale, and unparalleled at that era. At all fetes given within the walls they were set in motion, to the admiration of all who witnessed the wonderful contrivance. The following anecdote, illustrating the immensity of the undertaking, may interest the reader :—

“At the beginning of the Long Parliament, we are told, certain rustics of the neighbourhood, availed themselves of the prejudices excited against Lord Worcester on account of his creed, being a Papist, presented themselves one morning at the gate of Raglan, and in the name of Parliament demanded possession of the household arms. Apprised of their design, the noble owner met them at the White Gate; and after hearing them repeat the demand for arms, put the question, ‘Whether, seeing that they had come to disarm him and his servants, they intended also to follow up that act of violence by robbing him of his money and goods?’ ‘No,’ said the intruders; ‘we want your arms, and that only because you are publicly denounced as a recusant!’ ‘Nay,’ said his lordship; ‘I am indeed a peer of the realm, but I am no convicted recusant; and therefore the law cannot in reason take notice of any such thing, much less sanction this violent proceeding.’

“Thus thwarted in the project, and cautioned by the Marquess not to attempt a similar course, the rabble were about to retire; when the Marquess invited them to enter into the castle to amuse themselves and see what it contained. His object, however, was to frighten them a little for the alarm they had caused his household. He led the way from one part to another, until they had traversed the whole of the premises. At length they arrived at that part of the castle moat, over which the lofty bridge communicated with the Citadel or Keep Tower, when he requested them to stay awhile and examine the place,

"Now at this point," says Bayly, "Lord Herbert had lately contrived certain water-works, which, when the several engines and wheels were set agoing, vast quantities of water through the hollow conveyances were to be let down from the top of the high tower." All being ready for action, a signal from the Marquess brought down through these a deluge of cataracts, which, by their roaring, hissing, and foaming through the hollow tubes, produced such a hideous and deafening noise, that every echo from the building around was roused into imitation; while the visitors themselves, suddenly enveloped in a magic circle of roaring cataracts, knew not what to think, nor which way to turn.' Describing the effect in his own graphic style, the Chaplain writes:—

"Such was the roaring as if the mouth of hell had been thrown wide open, and all the devils had been conjured up, that the poor silly men stood so amazed, as if they had been half dead; and yet they saw nothing."

"At last, as the plot was contrived, up comes a man in great haste and affected trepidation; and staring wildly at the half-petrified rusties, cried out as he passed them—"Look to yourselves, my masters; look to yourselves, for by'r Lady, the lions are all broke loose!" Hereupon the rustic 'arm-searchers' fell into such a dancing fit of ague, that in their attempts to escape the lion's jaw, they tumbled so over one another as they scampered downstairs, that it was feared one-half of them had broken their necks. Nor did they once look behind them, until they found themselves a full mile beyond the gates of the castle.

"By this stratagem the Marquess completely attained his object, for the roar of Worcester's 'lions' prevented any further intrusion."

Along the edge of the moat was a sunken walk, twelve feet below the terrace, embellished with grotto-work, statues of the Roman Emperors, and other ornaments. The tower was ascended by a spiral staircase, and from the summit the diversified scenery beneath the walls, and the prominent objects on the distant hills, form a most extensive and pleasing prospect. Within range of the eye, commencing in the east and ending in the north, are the following objects:—

A pavilion erected in commemoration of our naval heroes, on the Kymin Hill, near Monmouth.—Troy Park, in the valley, belonging to one of the country seats of his Grace the Duke of Beaufort, and beyond a mound called Graig-y-dorth, the site of

a battle between Henry IV. and Owen Glendower, then the range of Trelleck Hills, of which the Beacon Hill is prominent, so named for being used as such when an invasion of the French was expected in the time of the Great Napoleon.—Llanishen Hill, and continuous with it Devauden and Newchurch Hills.—The Forest of Wentwood extending to the firs of Penycæmawr Hill.—Kemeys Folly, near Caerleon, a point which commands very extensive views of the Bristol Channel and several counties.—Twyn Barlwm, a high mountain near Risca, with a tumulus on its summit.—The Great Gaer, or Gaer Vawr near Newport.—The range of hills near Pontypool.—The range of hills between Pontypool and Abergavenny, terminating with the Bloreng mountain.—The conical peak of the Sugar Loaf Mountain and Peny-y-foel, beyond Abergavenny.—The Hatteril Hills, or Black Mountains, dividing Monmouthshire and Herefordshire from Brecknockshire, at the base of which stands Llanthony Abbey.—The Skirrid Vawr, or Holy Mountain, in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny.—Campston Hill.—The Graig Hill, at the foot of which stands Grosmont Castle.—Garway, in Herefordshire.—Skinch Cwm, and the White Hills.

The one side of the tower was destroyed by the springing of a mine.

The Gardens, &c.

On the right, as you approach the grand entrance, were the *Gardens*, and beyond them the *Stables*, *Dairy*, and other out-offices, the sites of which are now included in the lands belonging to the Castle-farm.

The Tilt Yard.

Authorities differ as to the exact situation of the *Tilt Yard*; by some, what is now called the *Bowling Green*, is described as the *Tilting Ground*, whilst others consider that the *Grand Terrace*, on the north-west side of the castle, was the spot, but the probability is that neither of these suppositions are correct, but that the tourney field was situated on the outside of the present wall, and that it occupied the space immediately outside the present gate, and enclosed between the two moats. Here, no doubt, many a lance was

couched—many a spear broken in rival combat : for one of the old lords, as before noticed, was renowned as the best horseman of his day, and jousts and tournaments, therefore, were not unlikely to have been frequent spectacles within the walls of Raglan.

“Gone are those days of chivalry and love,
When in these courts the mail-clad Knight was seen,
Eager with spear and burnished shield to prove
His arm redoubted in the mimic scene
Of warlike tournament ; while forms I ween
Of fairy loveliness were smiling round,
Enhancing with their beauty, grace, and mien,
The sight romantic ; and each varied sound
That rose from that fair throng, made it enchanted ground.”

After the castle was dismantled, its ancient gardens were obliterated—its lawns converted into pastures—its fountains and fish-ponds dried up, and its materials carted away to erect farmers' homesteads, and

“No porter, by the low-browed gate,
Took, in the wonted niche, his seat ;
To the paved court no peasant drew—
Waked to their toil no menial crew—
The maiden's carol is not heard
As to her morning task she fared ;—
In the lone offices around
Rung not a hoof—bayed not a hound—
Nor eager steed, with shrilling neigh,
Accus'd the lagging groom's delay.”

On the sixth Duke inheriting the estate, he forbid another stone to be touched, so that the noble ruin still bespeaks that such things were. The grounds are now kept in neat order, and every feature and fragment of the venerable ruin are preserved with jealous care by the well-informed and gentlemanly Warden, Mr. J. Cuxson, who affords every facility to the visitor in exploring the ruins, and takes a commendable pride in treasuring what remains of this truly magnificent structure.

Fetes got up for charitable and praiseworthy objects are frequently held in the castle during the summer months, and the liberality of His Grace the Duke of Beaufort in permitting the delightful grounds to be open to the public on all occasions, bespeaks a noble and generous nature.

The Archery Ground is provided with a capacious pavilion, and the members of the Raglan Archery Club comprise the *elite* of the county.

Auxiliaries to sport, such as quoits, swings, bows and arrows, foot-balls, &c., are provided by the warden for the amusement of parties. *The Walks* are dry and firm throughout the castle, and a great advantage the Ruins possess over others is, that the most timid visitor may walk the battlements and ascend to the summits of the towers without the chance of an accident, for wherever a slip of masonry takes place, the part is securely guarded by a railing.

Cefntilla Estate.

Cefntilla has been mentioned in the foregoing pages as being the head quarters of Sir Thomas Fairfax during the Siege of Raglan, and on account of its historical connection with the castle it was selected by the committee as a fitting estate to purchase for presentation to the heir of the late Lord Raglan, as an acknowledgement from his friends of the esteem in which the lamented warrior was held by his country, and the present Lord Raglan has adopted it as his country seat.

